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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 6 MARCH, 2021

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Tanzania, Burundi heighten relations



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi holds talks with importers of foodstuffs at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House.

By Getrude Mbago

TANZANIA and Burundi yesterday outlined five areas of bilateral cooperation aimed at cementing ties between the neighbouring countries.

In protocols signed during the 6th Joint Permanent Commission meeting held in Kigoma, the two countries agreed to further strengthen cooperation in defense and security, trade and investments, transportation infrastructures, social welfare and diplomatic relations.

Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi said that Tanzania will all the time stand with

Burundi to ensure that the restored peace and unity in the neighboring country is permanent.

He said that surging collaborations in outlined areas will stimulate economic, political and cultural exchanges between the two countries, transforming the lives of their citizens.

He said the meeting aimed at strengthening existing friendship and integration for mutual benefit.

"When Heads of State of Burundi and Tanzania met in September last year in Kigoma, they directed the foreign ministers of the two countries to meet and discuss how

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Building SGR phase II crosses halfway mark

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has expressed satisfaction with the ongoing construction of the second phase of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Morogoro to Makutupora, saying it is likely to be completed ahead of schedule.

Speaking after touring the section between Igandu and Dodoma stations, he said the ongoing construction has reached 51.9 percent.

He hailed the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) management for the good work that has seen the construction go as per expecta-

"I am impressed by the ongoing construction of the railway line and during this tour I witnessed people busy building the rail lines"

tions of the government, noting that it might be completed ahead of the February 2022 schedule.

Building a modern railway line and other infrastructure constructions in the country is part of the government's commitment to improve

transport and communication as well as improving the conditions of doing business, he said.

"I am impressed by the ongoing construction of the railway line and during this tour I witnessed people busy building the rail lines," he

stated, reminding the audience that upon completion it will ease transport between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

The Morogoro-Makutupora section, covering 426 kilometers, will create 30,000 direct employment opportunities and some 60,000 indirect jobs on completion, he said.

The section is part of the 2,561 kilometers SGR system to link Tanzania to neighboring countries of Rwanda and Uganda, while it cuts through Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The premier noted that

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AWF photo awards to honour late Mkapa

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) has launched a photography award contest in honour of the late President Benjamin Mkapa in recognition of his legacy as a journalist and conservationist.

AWF Media Specialist, Wambui Odhiambo said in web note that the award running under the theme 'Bringing Africa to the World and the World to Africa' is meant to create a platform for Africans to embrace conservation through photography and to value the beauty of its nature.

Former First Lady Anna Mkapa was the guest of honor during the launch of the Benjamin Mkapa Photography Award, also serving as a precursor to the 60th Anniversary of the African Wildlife Foundation, set up in 1961.

The Nairobi-based AWF is teaming up with Nature's Best Photography (NBP) to run the competition in honor of the late, iconic African leader and former Tanzanian president, recognizing Mkapa's leadership in conservation, education and his passionate support for AWF programs.

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Mweka college establishes garden for medicinal herbs

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

THE College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM)-Mweka has established a herb-garden for plants used as traditional remedies for various ailments including Covid-19, which now face depletion.

This follows increased use of certain herbs to combat Covid-19 but with little or no effort directed at planting the herbs, hence the danger of such plants not being available soon.

Dr Emmanuel Martin, the head of research, consultancy and postgraduate studies at the

"Go ahead. From today farmers in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions are free to sell poultry by weight. Let demand and supply determine the pricing"

college said here yesterday that despite massive use of herbs, people were not sensitized to also plant the wild herbs used.

Apart from saving the herbs from disappearance, the garden will also help experts conduct research on the herbal plants, he said.

Dr Martin noted that despite studies showing that some herbs are effective in combating certain health conditions, there have been no real efforts in protecting and preserving the plants.

And with increased use of herbs during the pandemic, the situation worsened as de-

mand exceeded supply and few institutions are aware of the need to invest in or sensitize the public on planting the herbs.

Herbal expert Never Mwambele said at the ceremony that the government needs to sensitize Tanzanians to plant herb-gardens not only for their use but to enable experts anywhere conduct surveys on availability of such plants.

"When people are encouraged to use

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Mweka college establishes garden for medicinal herbs

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herbs as remedies against diseases, they should also be sensitized to plant more of those plants," he said.

Ndotoo Wiliam, president of CAWM Students' Organization (CAWM SO) said the garden will serve as a botanical study site for students and a source of income since outsiders will be charged a fee for its use.

"I appeal to Tanzanians to beautify their homes with herb-gardens for the double benefit of beauty and medicines," the student leader noted.

Francis Chuwa, a resident

of Kibosho area said the establishment of the garden at the college should serve as a wake-up call for other Tanzanians who use traditional medicines to start herbal gardens.

"At the outbreak of Covid-19, the government sensitized people to embrace local remedies and most of us turned to herbs. As a result, there has been massive cutting of plants, where environmental degradation is risked" he said.

"It is time we started planting herbs and other plants with the same speed we have been cutting and using them," he added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a first-hand account yesterday of the ongoing implementation of the second phase – Morogoro to Makutupura in Dodoma Region – of the standard gauge railway project. This was along the Ihumwa-Igandu stretch. Photo: PMO

Building SGR phase II crosses halfway mark

FROM PAGE 1

while SGR is intended to replace the old metre-gauge main railway, it will run concurrently with the old one, passing the villages and districts of the old line.

He said the use of trains instead of road transport shall reduce costs, save roads from damage and conserve the environment

by reducing road haulage carbon emissions.

The SGR facility will cut down the cost of moving bulk freight by up to 40 percent, he stated, expressing the view that in the bigger picture of things, modern railway transport helps to cut the cost of living for the entire nation.

This is so because by reducing the transport cost, then traders of the

delivered goods can also afford to reduce the prices of final products, such that the final buyer can also save some money as the goods are sold more cheaply.

The premier praised the construction company Yapi Merkez of Turkey for doing a good job, promising that the government would consider giving it more jobs in the next phase of the SGR

construction.

Earlier, TRC director general Masanja Kadogosa told the premier that the second phase of the construction was going on well and would be completed on time.

Prof John Kondoro, the chairman of the TRC Board of Directors praised the government for its efforts to improve rail transport in the country.

AWF photo awards to honour late Mkapa

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Professional, Amateur and Youth (18 and younger) photographers are eligible to enter the competition opening on April 5, 2021 and running through June 2021. The results are scheduled to be revealed at an awards ceremony in November 2021. Entrants will have the opportunity to win cash prizes and awards totaling \$33,000 equivalent to 80m/- "We value innovation and technological mechanisms that can scale up AWF's work and impact, like digital technologies that can create new experiences by more directly connecting people to wildlands and wildlife," AWF Chief Executive Officer Kaddu Sebunya stated during the competition launch. "We aim to break degrees of separation between people and nature and create ownership, transparency, demonstrated impact and personalization. This is what the Benjamin Mkapa African Wildlife Photography Awards is all about," he asserted.

In line with AWF's mission to ensure wildlife and wildlands thrive in modern Africa and Nature's Best to celebrate the natural world through the art of photography and visual storytelling, the competition's goal is to engage, involve and attract photographers at all levels of expertise, while encouraging young talent to become advocates for generational behaviour change towards wildlife conservation.

The Grand Prize Winner will be awarded \$5,000 with an interview and portfolio in Nature's Best Photography magazine, along with publication in a special edition of Nature's Best devoted to the

Mkapa Photography Awards. The category winners will each be awarded \$1,000 and will be featured in Nature's Best special edition. There will be two Youth overall winners: one Africa-based and one Global Winner. The competition will enhance the visibility of African wildlife through image windows like African Wildlife Behavior, African Wildlife Portraits, Wildlife at Risk, Fragile Wilderness, African Conservation Heroes, Wildlife in Modern Africa: Coexistence and Conflict, Art in Nature, and Through Africa in Motion/Video category. Participants will be able to submit footage of natural wildlife behavior and outdoor experiences in wildlands, he stated.

Nature's Best Photography president Stephen Frelich said that through his 30-plus years as a publisher of photographic works, he has personally witnessed the positive impact of combining the creative and documentary talents of professional, amateur, and youth photographers alike. "Their memories are our new discoveries, and their stories are the window to the wild that allows our imagination to soar," he stated.

The African Wildlife Foundation is the primary advocate for the protection of wildlife and wildlands as an essential part of a modern and prosperous Africa. Founded in 1961 to focus on Africa's conservation needs, it articulates a vision uniquely adapted to Africa, plus bridging science and public policy.

It also seeks to demonstrate the benefits of conservation to ensure the survival of the continent's wildlife and wildlands, the publisher added..



Adam Kimbisa, chairman of the Tanzanian members of the East African Legislative Assembly, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the importance and relevance of the East African Community's plans and strategies to Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma.

Tanzania, Burundi heighten relations

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further solidify cooperation in various potential areas," he said.

Prof Kabudi said Tanzania will raise its voice to call for removal of economic sanctions imposed by Western countries on Burundi as the sanctions were not only affecting Burundians but people in the entire EAC bloc.

"We also hope that Burundi will also be accepted by other East African Community (EAC) member states so as to support its development and enable the country to contribute in the development of the region," he said.

Burundi and Tanzania have an integrated relationship in various areas of economy, political ties and culture, therefore to facilitate smooth economic activity; the government has been implementing several strategic projects and initiatives, he said.

"There are mega projects like the Nyerere hydropower project set to generate over 2000 megawatts, the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), roads, bridges and several others," he said, noting that in the next

five years, the government is poised to accelerate the participation of the private sector in economic activity.

"During the meeting an agreement between the chambers of commerce of Burundi and Tanzania will be signed so as to strengthen collaborations in trade and investments," he said.

The minister said Tanzania currently hosts 289,664 refugees of various countries where out of them 205,169 are Burundians.

"In collaboration with the Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Tanzania government has been supporting all the refugees fairly as well as facilitating voluntary repatriation of the refugees wishing to go back to their home countries," he said.

From September 2017 to December 2020 a total of 106,816 refugees were repatriated to the homeland, he said.

In his remarks, Ambassador Albert Shingiro, Permanent Secretary of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Burundi commended experts from both countries for their efforts towards reaching agreement in the various areas of cooperation.

"As Tanzanians and Burundians are living it is like there is no boundary, because we are living like blood brothers and sisters cooperating in various things which stimulate development and bring self-worth among the people," he said.

He commended President John Magufuli for his efforts towards strengthening solidarity between the two countries.

Ambassador Shingiro said that in his leadership, Dr Magufuli works hard to create a respected Africa with exceptional economic development.

He said that Burundi, with President Evariste Ndayishimiye is well prepared to ensure that it strengthens economic, political and cultural collaborations between the two countries.

"Burundi is safe and peaceful. We are welcoming guests, investors from across

the world. Burundians are now enjoying their rights and living peacefully in their beautiful motherland, a number of people who fled the country during the time of uncertainty have now returned," he declared.

He further commended Tanzania for accommodating Burundian refugees as well as facilitating voluntary repatriation to their home country.

"Tanzania and Burundi are currently awake more than ever before to ensure that we protect our rich resources which have been stolen for years leaving our people poor. It is high time now we stand up strong to ensure that every resource we have benefits our people and not otherwise," he said.

He said Burundians will not forget the huge role taken up by Tanzania to restore peace in Burundi.

"The implementation of the agreements will commence effectively without delay so as to bring positive impacts to our people," he said.

Earlier, Wilbert Ibuge, the Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary, said in the technical meeting permanent secretaries and senior officials from the two countries came up with a draft of the areas of cooperation.

"The draft which will be presented before the meeting here today carries several priorities which will be implemented by the two countries to bring transformation in the two nations," he said.

In the draft, the two countries have agreed to strengthen diplomatic relations, defense and security, trade and investment, infrastructures and transportation as well as social links.

Regional Commissioner Thobias Adengenye said residents in the region are the ones who are going to benefit heavily from the agreements.

"Kigoma has investment opportunities in agriculture, fishing, transport and several businesses. We also have favorable and supportive infrastructures to facilitate smooth operations of traders and investors," he said, welcoming residents of the two countries to visit tourist attractions like national parks, as well as cultural and historical sites.



Mama G. Herbal Ltd Director Hilda Maziku (2nd-R) briefs Prof Kitila Mkumbo (L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Investments), at the First Tanzania Business Women's Trade Fair held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is Mwanaidi Mohamed, a marketing officer with the firm. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Jafo happy with construction progress of Uhuru Hospital road in Chamwino

By Guardian Reporter

SELEMANI Jafo minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) has expressed satisfaction with the construction progress of the 320 meters long road leading to Uhuru Hospital in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region.

The road which is constructed at tarmac level is under the Tanzania Rural Roads Agency (TARURA).

Currently, the agency receives a ration of 30 percent against 70 percent given to the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) disbursed by the Road Fund Board (RFB).

Jafo was speaking shortly after inspecting different construction projects within the country's political capital—Dodoma.

"We have constructed the Uhuru hospital, but the road to its entrance was in poor condition. I am impressed with the construction progress," said the minister.

As of September last year, construction of the hospital reached 87 per cent after the government fulfilled its commitment of injecting 2.3bn/- into the project.

Minister Jafo urged the project contractor—M/S Nyanza Co. Ltd to make sure the project is completed as per signed agreement. TARURA Manager in Chamwino District, Eng Nelson Maganga said construction of the road at tarmac level has now reached 85 percent.

"We expect to complete construction of the road on March 14th 2021 as agreed

in the contract," said Eng Maganga noting the project cost is 511m/-.

In another development, Minister Jafo inspected construction of roads at the Mtumba government city. The roads measuring 51.2 kilometers are constructed by China Heinan International Cooperation Co. Ltd (CHICO).

He gave CHICO until July 30th 2021 to complete all the roads.

"I am not impressed with the construction progress; you were supposed to have reached 69 percent by this month, but you have reached 63 percent. I was expecting you to have completed the job by 70 percent," he said.

TARURA Director for Urban Roads, Eng Mohamed Mkwata linked the project delay with the ongoing rainfall across the country as well as cement shortage which hit the country in the last months of 2020.

He however said the contractor has procured some extra equipment to ensure the job is completed in accordance with the reached agreement.

In October 2018, the government announced the construction of 112.3 kilometers after receiving 494b/- loan from African Development Bank (AfDB).

Dodoma City Council Executive Director, Godwin Kunambi was quoted saying Dodoma city is growing fast, hence the need for railway transport.

He added that the train will connect Mtumba government city, city center, Msalato airport and other areas served by the proposed ring road.

Zanzibar president applauds NGOs' support

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has commended the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for the various supports they provide to the community.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday when he met at the State House with leaders of two NGOs namely, Helping Hand and Muzdaliffa Charitable Organisation.

He said the various supports provided by the NGOs to the community which in-

cludes construction of water wells, medical equipment and furniture contributes to government efforts in improving people's welfare.

He said despite efforts by the Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA), there are still some Isle residents who do not access to water. He said the organization's decision to construct water wells will ensure availability of reliable water services to Zanzibaris.

The President advised Helping Hand to consider using solar powered water

pumps to reduce operation cost as well as ensuring reasonable water prices.

He also advised them to continue offering free health screening services and provision of medical equipment to hospitals and health centres.

On furniture, Dr Mwinyi said most of the public offices in Zanzibar face a shortage of furniture. Some of the offices are the police force, prisons and public colleges.

"The government will continue to work closely with NGOs and provide you with necessary support. The furniture you do-

not have to our public offices will not be taxed," he added. Helping Hand leader, Yassir Salim Masoud said they have been providing different type of support to Zanzibar residents which are aimed at improving their welfare.

He said they had also conducted free eye screening, construction of water wells, furniture and medical equipment.

He added in ten years, they have provided various equipment worth over 17bn/- which included construction of 48 water wells at different places within the isles.

Masoud said the medical equipment was donated to Mnazi mmoja referral hospital in Unguja and Abdalla Mzee hospital in Pemba.

He called upon the government to continue offering tax exemptions because most of the equipment they import are meant for the community and public offices.

Director, Muzdaliffa Charitable Organization, Farouk Hamad Khamis said they have been extending various supports to the people of Unguja and Pemba.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE SUPPLY OF CATERPILLAR MINING EQUIPMENT

Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Supply of "CATERPILLAR MINING EQUIPMENT" 2021 to AUMS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

- Caterpillar R2900G Loader
- Caterpillar AD60 Dump Truck
- Caterpillar 12K Grader

African Underground Mining Services, AUMS (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified and experienced Tanzanian companies to express their interest in the Supply of Caterpillar Mining Equipment to AUMS (T) Ltd.

1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to ContractsTanzania@aumsg.com by not later than 16:00HRS Local Time on 12/03/21 quoting "EOI Supply of Caterpillar Mining Equipment" in the subject line of your email.

Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile, Shareholder details, Directors list, Organogram, Number of employers with a foreign to national ratio indicated
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Current supply contracts/agreements for the supply of Caterpillar Mining Equipment.
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
- Key Employees CV & Certificates
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018.

Any response received beyond 16:00HRS Local Time on date 12/03/21 shall not be considered.

2. Assessment criteria

The mandatory information requested at paragraph 1 will be evaluated and scored to shortlist pre-qualified companies.

The pre-qualification of any company submitting an EOI shall be at the sole discretion of AUMS (T) Ltd.

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the companies EOI. AUMS (T) Ltd shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

For more information on African Underground Mining Services and its operations please refer to the following website www.aumsg.com.

Invitation for Quotations/Bids

Contractor Solicitation for Nalgonda Water Treatment Plant in Basutu, Manyara



WaterAid is an International Non-Governmental Organization, with a vision of ensuring Safe Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for Everyone, Everywhere by 2030. WaterAid has had its operations in Tanzania since 1983 under the name "WaterAid Tanzania" which is registered as Non-Governmental Organization in The Republic of Tanzania (NO.SO.7557).

WaterAid in Tanzania operates as a Country Programme and functional office of WaterAid UK; within East African Region. The head office is in Dar es Salaam, Rufiji Street, Plot No.1469, Masaki Area within Kinondoni District.

Basutu lake provides water to the surrounding communities in Basutu. There is an existing water scheme that is currently supplying water to the communities, with no treatment. It was identified and later tested that the level of fluoride is high in the water supply hence requires treatment to make water safe for human consumption.

The treatment methodology that was identified is called Nalgonda, whereas chemicals will be used to remove fluoride and other particles from water to make it clear and safe for human consumption.

WaterAid Tanzania, aims to search for the contractor who is able to construct the whole scheme, install the pumps and other installations that will enable water to pass through treatment unit to join the existing supply scheme in Basutu, Manyara.

The project is implemented by WaterAid Tanzania and funded by EABL Foundation

All eligible interested bidders should write to ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org Cc NicombolweKidagho@wateraid.org requesting ToR with Bills of Quantity and other related documents. The deadline for requesting BOQ is on 18th March 2021.

Bidders should provide documents to evidence their qualifications including but not limited to:

- A duly completed and signed priced offer as per the Bills of Quantities (BoQ).
- Valid licenses and legal documentation to operate in Tanzania e.g. incorporation certificate, business license and relevant tax certificates, licenses from CRB and MoW
- Major equipment(s) for carrying out the works, a list of recent performed contracts of similar nature including the names and addresses of the employers for verification
- The company profiles. Recent financial statements of the bidder/bank statement
- Three references' contacts you have worked with in the last 2 years.

Eligible interested bidders should send their original bids in PDF format to WaterAid Tanzania Office before 18th March 2021 10:00am East Africa Time; through ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org, Cc NicombolweKidagho@wateraid.org. Bids shall be addressed to: "Country Director – WaterAid Tanzania, P.O. Box 33759 Plot No.1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsula Dar es Salaam: Tanzania." and clearly marked "Bid for Construction of Basutu Nalgonda Water Scheme(Plant)

The virtual opening and evaluation will be on 18th March 2021 at 11:00am through Teams Meeting

All enquiries relating to this advertisement should be sent via e-mail to ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org, Cc NicombolweKidagho@wateraid.org



**REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF HEALTH SOCIAL WELFARE,
ELDER, GENDER AND CHILDREN**

P. O. Box 236
MNAZIMMOJA-ZANZIBAR
Email:afyasmz@zanlink.com
Ref.....

Tel: +255-21-2233454
Fax: +255-24-2231987

DATE 04/03/2021

**SUPPLY OF OFFICE STATIONARIES FOR FRAME WORK CONTRACT
MINISTRY OF HEALTH ZANZIBAR SOCIAL WELFARE,
ELDER, GENDER AND CHILDREN**

Invitation for Tenders

IFB No: SMZ/H01/G/ICB/2020/2021/08

1. This Invitation for Tender follow the General Procurement Notice for this Project appeared in Zanzibar leo ISSN 5489 dated on 21/08/2021
2. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar though Ministry of Health Social Welfare Elder, Gender and Children has set a side fund for eligible payments under the contract of frame work contract for supply of office Stationeries.
3. The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health Social Welfare Elder, and Children Zanzibar is here by invite all eligible and qualified bidder to submit tender for **Supply of office Stationeries**, the list of items as per attached to the schedule of requirement.
4. Tendering will be conducted through the Opened Competitive tendering procedures as specified in the Public Procurement (Goods, Works and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Regulations, 2006 – Government Notice No. 62 and is open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.
5. You may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the tender documents at the address below **The Secretary Ministerial Tender Board, Ministry of Health Social welfare Elder, Gender and Children P.O.BOX 236 Zanzibar.**
- 5 A complete set of tender document in English language may be purchased by you at the above office, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Tanzania Shillings One Hundred thousand only (100,000/=)**. and should be paid through the **People Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) account number 0707968000**
- 6 All tenders must be accompanied by a tender security of **TZS 2.5%** of tender price must be addressed to the **Principal Secretary Ministry of Health PO.BOX 236 Zanzibar.**
- 7 A complete sealed set of tender documents must be submitted to **Procurement and Disposable Management Unit, Ministry of Health Zanzibar before 31rd March, 2021 at 10:00 am local time.** Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the representatives who chosen to attend.
- 8 Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH SOCIAL WELFARE, ELDERLY GENDER
AND CHILDREN-ZANZIBAR**

Producers should test food samples at improved laboratories, says TBS

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has purchased new equipment at its laboratories that would enable it to test many food samples at once and provide results within a short period.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Bureau's director of testing and metrology services, Eng Johannes Maganga, said the government has improved the capacity of all the laboratories hence an increased efficiency.

Citing Eng Maanga said in the past the food laboratory had a capacity to test up to 550 samples of food per month but due procurement of modern equipment, the lab's testing capacity has been increased to between 750 and 800 food samples per month.

He said they want to reduce time in serving their customers so that they get results of tested samples instantly to enable them to proceed with other responsibilities towards establishment of their factories.

"We are providing support to the government towards its industrialization endeavours by making

sure that all the samples brought to us are tested and results provided within a short period," he said.

According to him some of the benefits of testing the materials are to avoid losses in the manufacturing process.

"One of our tasks is to control the quality of materials used in the construction industry, whether they are locally-manufactured or imported," Maganga said.

He however urged manufacturers in the various sectors to make use of TBS to get quality materials for quality products. He said the bureau is mandate to test all the materials including those imported from other countries to ensure they met the set local quality standards.

Maganga informed that all the laboratories at TBS have been accredited by regional bodies except that of textile, cotton and leather.

"We aim at ensuring that the remaining laboratories are accredited. We have already started the processes for their accreditation by regional bodies," he noted adding they are expecting them to be accredited by the end of next finan-

cial year. In order to demonstrate technical competency and produce precise and accurate tests and calibration results, TBS embarked on a programme to ensure that all its laboratories are accredited by the internationally recognized accreditation body—South African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS).

Accredited laboratories include those for chemistry, food, packaging technology centre, building construction, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and the metrology laboratory.

He said the new building has enough space and has accommodated all laboratories and 125 analysts are working under a conducive environment contrary to the previous laboratory building.

He urged businessmen and all Tanzanians to test their products with the TBS laboratories at cheap and affordable prices for industrial development.

TBS is the nation custodian of all compulsory and noncompulsory standards. The compulsory standards fall under environment, safety and food items.



Security guard Mustafa Mabrouk hoists the Ardhi University flag at an International Women's Day event held at the university's premises in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Those in attendance include the university's Vice Chancellor, Prof Evaristo Liwa (4th-L), and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics), Prof Gabriel Kassenga (3rd-L). Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TRC to renovate 970km of central railway from Dar es Salaam to Isaka

By Guardian Reporter, Tabora

THE government through the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) is implementing a project to renovate the 970 kilometre central railway from Dar es Salaam station to Isaka in Shinyanga region at a cost of 680bn/-.

The move is aimed at ensuring a possible transport channel as well as increase speed to the central railway from an average 35 to 70 per hour.

This was said by leader of the renovation team from Isaka to Itigi Bernard Mbonde when he briefed members of the Tabora regional political committee of ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM).

He said the project has 71 contracts including four involving renovation for railway highway from Dar es Salaam to Isaka, procurement of 44 Wagons and procurement of machines for renovating routes among others.

He said freight wagon and locomotives are expected to arrive into the country any-time from now which will fa-

cilitate cargo transportation in the country.

He said resting stations have been prolonged from 400 to 600 metres to allow long trains to stop and drop passengers contrary to what was the case earlier.

CCM chairman for Tabora Hassan Wakasui said there was need for TRC to revive the train and bring back security groups which in the past helped to control security along the railway line.

He added that lack of groups that used to maintain security within the facility increases risks of being sabotaged.

The party official also called upon TRC to increase the number of staff in various railway stations especially those working for health to ensure there was hygiene as he gave an example of some stations with only one health worker.

Tabora Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati asked investors to invest in the region because transportation of goods was not an issue as the railway was going to solve everything.

Govt cautions Tanzanians against issuing unauthorised information

By Guardian Reporter

GOVERNMENT Spokesperson Dr Hassan Abbasi has warned Tanzanians and the media on issuance of information to the public saying there are authorities that have been authorized to inform the public on certain information.

Dr Abbasi (pictured) said in recent days there has been a new tendency by some media outlets, people and social media platforms who have been issuing information which involves the government and its institutions without following rules of issuing the information, a thing which he said is illegal.

"I have noticed a tendency by some people, and institutions who come out to issue information and data on infections and diseases on behalf of the government which is an unacceptable, every person and institutions must take part in educating the public on how to take preventive measures," he said.

He said the government has been issuing information by following rules and that anybody who wishes to get information from the government is welcomed.

He has insisted that the role of issuing information of public interest such as deaths and outbreak of diseases was vested on the government and not an individual.

"So ordinary people should stop issuing such information especially on outbreak of diseases, there are guidelines that have been put in place on who is supposed to issue information like last year when there was an outbreak of Corona, the president gave a list of leaders who can issue such information," he said.

Dr Abbasi called upon the public to continue taking precautions against the disease.



isks of being sabotaged. The party official also called upon TRC to increase the number of staff in various railway stations especially those working for health to ensure there was hygiene as he gave an example of some stations with only one health worke



**REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF HEALTH SOCIAL WELFARE
ELDERLY, GENDER AND CHILDREN**

P.O.BOX 236
MNAZIMMOJA-ZANZIBAR
Email: afyasmz@zanlink.com

Tel +255-21-2233454
Fax: +255-24-2231987

**Tender No. SMZ/ HO1/G/NCB/2020/2021/ 05
FOR**

**Supply of Laboratory Equipment's for Zanzibar Health
Research Institute at Binguni (ZAHRI)**

Invitation for Tenders

Date: 04/02/2021

1. This Invitation for Tenders follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in Zanzibar Leo ISSN 5489 dated 21/08/2020.
2. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has received funds from the financial year 2020-2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for the Supply of Laboratory equipment for Zanzibar Health Research Institute at Binguni (ZAHRI)
3. The Ministry of Health Social Welfare, Elderly, Gender and Children Zanzibar now invites National Competitive from eligible National qualified bidders registered by Zanzibar Public Procurement and Regulatory Authority (ZPPRA) as supplier to Supply of Laboratory equipment for Zanzibar Health Research Institute at Binguni
4. Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the Public Procurement (Goods, Works and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Regulations, 2006 – Government Notice No. 62 and are open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.
5. Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the **Procurement and Disposal Management Unit (PDMU), Ministry of Health P.O.BOX 236 Makumbusho Road Mnazi Mmoja Zanzibar** from 8:00am up to 3:30pm local time, on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
6. A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English language and additional sets may be purchased in written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **100,000/=** Payment should be by Cash at People Bank of Zanzibar **(PBZ) account number 0707968000**
7. All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender security in an acceptable form in the amount of 2.5% of contract price or freely convertible currencies in case of foreign Tenderers.
8. All tenders in one original plus two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to **Procurement and Disposal Management Unit (PDMU) Ministry of Health, Social Welfare, Elderly, Gender and Children Zanzibar before 10:00am Wednesday 31st March 2021**. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Ministry of Health conference room.
9. Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE,
ELDERLY, GENDER AND CHILDREN
ZANZIBAR**



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE, ELDERLY,
GENDER AND CHILDREN ZANZIBAR**

P.O.BOX 236
MNAZIMMOJA-ZANZIBAR
Email: afyasmz@zanlink.com

Tel +255-21-2233454
Fax: +255-24-2231987

**Tender No. SMZ/ HO1/G/NCB/2020/2021/09
FOR**

**SUPPLY OF TWO (2) FORKLIFT AND TEN (10) PALLET
JACK/ STACKER FOR CENTRAL MEDICAL STORE AT
VITONGOJI PEMBA**

Invitation for Tenders

Date: 02/03/2021

1. This Invitation for Tenders follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in Zanzibar Leo ISSN 5489 dated 21/08/2021
2. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of the Ministry Of Health, Social Welfare, Elderly, Gender and Children Zanzibar during the financial year 2020-2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for the supply of **two (2) Forklift and ten (10) Pallet jack/ Stacker for Central Medical Store at Vitongoji Pemba as in a table bellow**

SN	Description of item	Unit	QUANTITY
1	Forklift	Piece	2
2	Pallet Jack/ Stacker	Piece	10

3. The Ministry of Health, Social Welfare, Elderly, Gender and Children Zanzibar now invites National tenders from eligible National qualified bidders registered by Zanzibar Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (ZPPRA) as supplier to supply **two (2) Forklift and ten (10) Pallet jack/ Stacker for Central Medical Store at Vitongoji Pemba**
4. Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the Public Procurement (Goods, Works and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Regulations, 2006 – Government Notice No. 62 and are open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.
5. Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the **Procurement Management Unit (PMU), Ministry of Health P.O.BOX 236 Makumbusho Road Mnazi Mmoja Zanzibar** from 8:00am up to 3:30pm local time, on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
6. A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English language and additional sets may be purchased by restricted Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **100,000/=** Payment should be by Cash at People Bank of Zanzibar **(PBZ) account number 0707968000**
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.....
**PRINCIPLE SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE,
ELDERLY, GENDER AND CHILDREN
ZANZIBAR**

DC warns parents and guardians who engage in marrying off girls

By Correspondent George Sembony, Handeni

HANDENI District Commissioner, Toba Nguvula has warned parents and guardians who engage in marrying off girls to stop immediately or face government wrath.

The DC was speaking in Handeni during an event to mark 40 years of service by World Vision Tanzania at Ugweno village in the district.

He said that he would not tolerate such parents and caretakers insisting that an early marriage was the main reason blocking girl children from achieving their dreams.

Nguvula commended the World Vision for improving conditions aimed at clearing the way to the academic development of children, especially girls to achieve their academic dreams.

He mentioned such contributions as improvement of education, health, nutrition and infrastructures in several areas of the district.

"Let girl children study. These children should not be frustrated from reaching their dreams. You should fear girl children here in Handeni as leprosy," Nguvula said

He warned that he would deal strongly with parents and caretakers who let their children be married or who encourage them to fail or skip studies.

He called on parents, caretakers, councillors, village leaders and Children Protection Committees to make sure that children are protected to enable them to reach their dreams.

The DC commended World Vision for its contribution to the academic development of the children in the district. "

Nguvula said that so many organizations have come and went away for a short period after implementing projects, but the World Vision has persevered for 40 years.

Earlier, the Acting WVT Eastern Cluster Manager, Jacqueline Kaihura mentioned absenteeism as one of the major challenges facing the education sector in the area

Kaihura said that the organization has supplemented government efforts in ensuring the protection of girl child and ensuring that they reach their dreams.



Josephine Sepeku (R), manager with Future Stem Business Leaders Tanzania, speaks at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam organised by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Costech). The project's focus is on building capacity for science students in secondary schools. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

WB expresses interest in financing road construction in Iringa Region

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE World Bank (WB) has expressed interest in financing construction of the 33.61 kilometers road from Ilogolo to Kilolo in Iringa Region.

Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) manager in Iringa Region Eng Daniel Kindole made the statement

when addressing members of the regional roads board at a conference held here yesterday.

He said that feasibility study, detailed design and preparation of tender documents for the project were completed during the 2008/2009 financial year. He said so far about 8.62 kilometers of the road have been constructed at tar-

mac.

According to him, the government will also finance construction of some 10 kilometers of the road at a cost of more than 7.889bn/- . He said funds were allocated in the 2020/2021 financial year.

He said the government through TANROADS intends to start construction of ring roads within Iringa town in-

cluding those connecting Kihesa, Kilolo, University of Iringa (UOI) and the Igumbulo TANZAM road.

Eng Kindole said that completion of the Iringa-Dodoma road (260 km) at tarmac level will help reduce congestion, addinf they are now looking for funds to compensate people affected by the project.

A total of 4.62bn/- is re-

quired for compensation, he said.

He said during the 2019/2020 financial year, the government allocated 950.000m/- for the construction of 0.450 km from Igumbulo terminal bus stand to the University of Iringa. He said the project is progressing well and that they have set another funds in the 2020/2021 for

completion of the work.

The TANROADS office serves 1,218.5 km of roads including 462.3 km of highways and 756.2 km of regional roads, where the road network mentioned above includes 426.5 km of paved roads and gravel 792.0 km.

Iringa Regional Commissioner, Ally Hapi called on Members of Parliament from

Iringa region to champion efforts for construction of roads since they are important for investors as well the economy because farmers depend on them to transport their crops.

Hapi said MPs are an important indicator of regional development and they have a great opportunity to speak for the region in the National Assembly.

SADC registers notable progress in implementation of priority projects

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has recorded notable progress in the preparation and implementation of priority interconnector projects aimed to connect Tanzania, Angola and Malawi to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) grid.

According to the progress report by the SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Tax to the 40th SADC Summit, the Mozambique-Malawi interconnector attained financial closure and is at construction stage. The project is expected to be commissioned in 2022.

The Zambia-Tanzania interconnector is divided into several components and it is at construction phase from the Zambian side and Tanzania side where the two transmission lines are designed to converge near Nakonde Border by 2022.

The Angola-Namibia Interconnector is at feasibility studies stage and is also expected to be commissioned by 2022 following expression of commitment by the two Member States by signing the inter-governmental memorandum of understanding (IGMOU).

On the north-western side of the Region, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are also considering to develop an interconnector project which is still at pre-feasibility stage.

The SADC Secretariat is advocating for the development of the Western transmission corridor along Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and central transmission corridor along Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and Eastern corridors along South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania of the SAPP network in order to relieve congestion from the existing central corridor.

To unlock and leverage development of the power transmission interconnector projects, backbone transmission lines as well as those linked to the new power plants, the Secretariat, in collaboration with SAPP and through support from the World Bank, is developing a study on establishment of a Regional Transmission Infrastructure Financing Facility (RTIFF).

Recommendations of the study will be presented to relevant sectoral Ministerial committees for clearance and ultimately to Council of Ministers for consideration and approval.



Water minister Jumaa Aweso (R) and Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella head to the venue of a meeting for water stakeholders in the region held in Lushoto yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

23 Mbeya council employees declare living with HIV/Aids

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TWENTY three employees of Mbeya city council have publicly declared to live with HIV/Aids aiming to encourage other people to check their health status.

The civil servants including 16 women and seven men have also formed a group to facilitate availability of loans from financial institutions for their entrepreneurship activities.

This was said yesterday by the group's leader, Douglas Kisunga during a visit by members of the HIV and TB parliamentary committee in Mbeya Region. He said

that group members are from the 34 wards within the city.

"We are thankful for the support we have been receiving from the city director. He provided us with a 15m/- loan for improvement of our entrepreneurship activities," he said.

Kisunga said the group is working to encourage Mbeya residents to check their health status as well as insisting on those living with HIV/Aids to continue using the antiretroviral drugs (ARVs).

Representing her fellow workers, Felician Simwela said there are many people living with HIV/Aids but

they are not ready to publicly declare their health status. He said the situation contributes in difficulties in fighting the disease.

According to Simwela, most of the people fear to declare their health status due to stigma which still exists in the society.

"Our employer has been giving us 200,000/- every month for procurement of nutritional food as well as improving our businesses," he said calling upon other civil servants living with the disease to declare their health status and join the group to improve their social welfare.

Coordinator of the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) in Mbeya Region, Dr Masili Luturagula said the region has an infection of 9.3 percent, ranking it third after Njombe and Iringa.

He said until December last year, 114,886 equivalent to 82 percent of people living with HIV/aids knew their status and that 114,330 (99.5 percent) use ARVs. He said 94.5 percent of those using ARVs have successful suppressed the virus.

The government launched the 90-90-90 campaign through which it targets to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

Govt chemist advises small scale miners and processors in the country to register

By Correspondent James Kandoya

CHIEF government chemist Dr Fidelice Mafumiko has advised small scale miners and processors in the country to register so that they are formally recognised and counseled on safe use of chemicals.

Dr Mafumiko made the remarks during one-day training for gold processors on proper and safe use of the chemicals organised by the government chemist laboratory agency (GCLA) in Geita Region.

He said the aim of the training was to build the capacity of the mineral processors on the best way to operate their activities without affecting people's health or environment.

"Some of the mineral processors are carrying their activities with-

out being registered as the law demands, this is dangerous and bad," he said.

"Also, other mineral processors use chemicals without following procedures which is dangerous," he added.

He said all stakeholders must import and use chemicals by following procedures in order the government to have good records.

According to him, once the GCLA knows them in numbers it can easily give them training on better ways to handle chemicals and collect revenues from them.

Dr Mafumiko said the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act [No. 3 of 2003] wants every user of chemicals to be registered.

"Our duty is also to give you

the knowledge about chemicals, use and its impacts to the people's lives and environment in general. Therefore I call all of you to be registered," he said.

For his part, the Small Mining Processors Association Chairman in Geita region Christopher Kadeo said the training was very important for them for it will help them understand safe use of chemicals.

Kadeo said there were fast technology changes taking place in the mining sector hence the need for such training.

"Lack of knowledge about chemicals is a big challenge among the processors. Therefore, it is our hope that the training will enable us to reduce chemical's impacts to the environment and people's health," he said.



Bashiri Rwesingisa, Manyara regional manager for the Tanzania Roads Agency (Tanroads), presents his draft budget at a board meeting held in Babati yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Apply scientific skills to solve problems, urges Costech head

By Correspondent Joseph

Mchekadona

STUDENTS in the country have been called upon to apply scientific skills to solve local problems through the creation of science-based businesses.

The call was made in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Director General of the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) Dr Amosi Nungu at the launch of Future Stem Business Leaders Tanzania (FSBL).

FSBL is aimed at supporting science secondary school students to understand the importance of business and how it links to their science education.

He said through scientific training, students can solve local problems through the creation of science enterprises which in turn create job opportunities for others and increase government revenue.

Nungu hailed FSBL for the program which is targeting A level students from eight schools in Dar es Salaam and 5 in Arusha and promised COSTECH support so that it reaches all regions of the country.

"As COSTECH we geared to see that Science is being used to solve the challenges which society faces at the same time science is used to create job opportunities," he said.

He also said it is pleasing to note that under FSBL students are accorded six weeks internship at companies, where they meet business mentors, learn administration, management, business and marketing.

Nungu urged FSBL to reach all districts of the regions where the program is being implemented.

"It is very recommendable

that under this program, students develop the required skills to turn an idea into a potential business. I am asking FSBL to reach out to many regions in the country, you must start by reaching out to all the districts of the regions where the program is being implemented," he said.

FSBL project Manager Josephine Sepeku said they are aimed at addressing the challenges facing the country's economy and its people.

Sepeku said the program supports science students to discover opportunities beyond the scope of traditional pathways develop their business knowledge and acquire a broad range of skills that will enhance their future career prospects.

She said to realize their aim, they will continue encouraging students to apply their scientific training to solve local problems

"Currently we are in eight high schools in Dar es Salaam and five in Arusha, we increase two schools each year, in the future the number of schools will increase, through science innovation students create a lot of things which we are helping them to turn them into business," she said.

She thanked partners of the program who included Dar es Salaam Teknohama Business Incubator (DTBi United Kingdom (UK) based Institute of Physics (IPO) Young Tanzania Leaders, the University of Dar es Salaam and others.

As COSTECH we geared to see that Science is being used to solve the challenges which society faces at

Gwajima reveals 1.6bn/- misuse during Tumbi hospital expansion

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

HEALTH, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima has revealed the misuse of 1.6bn/- during implementation of a project for expansion of Tumbi regional referral hospital saying the amount of money spent does not match the improvements made.

Dr Gwajima (pictured) made the remarks yesterday during her tour at the hospital whereas she said the project evaluation revealed a loss of 1.6bn/-. He directed the Coast Region Administrative Secretary to ensure proper supervision of projects in the health sector and value for money.

According to the minister, the hospital's expansion project was to be implemented at a cost of 29bn/-with funding from the government. She said the regional authority had earlier planned to implement the project using its own funds whereas it was to spend 5bn/-.

She said the government has so far disbursed 9.4bn/- for project, of the amount, 5.5bn/- have been spent under the supervision of the Kibaha education centre and 3.9bn/- directed to the health ministry.

The minister noted that the Coast Region has entered into contracts with two contractors—SUMA JKT and MUST Construction Bureau contrary to Section 7 of the Public Procurement Act, 2011 and its 2016 amendments.

"I want you to conduct a thorough investigation on the project implementation; the report should be submitted in my office within 30 days," said Minister Gwajima ordering the probe team to also suggest whether the constructed buildings are safe to use.

She also directed them to advise the government on whether the dilapidated buildings can be repaired and continues being used for provision of health services.

Dr Gwajima ordered the regional authority to suspend payment to the contractors until the investigation is completed.



STANBIC BANK TANZANIA



IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA

(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)

AT DAR ES SALAAM

COMMERCIAL CASE NO. 23 OF 2020

STANBIC BANK TANZANIA LIMITED PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

DEOGRATIUS BONIPHACE KIGALUDEFENDANT

DECREE:

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays for judgment and decree against the defendant jointly and severally as follows:-

- Payment of TZS 79,195,296.59 to be paid by the Defendant as pleaded in paragraphs 4 and 7 of this plaint.
- Interest on the sum stated at (a) above at the rate of 25% per annum from the date of filing this suit to the date of Judgment.
- Interest on the decretal amount at the Court's rate of 7% from the date of Judgment up to the date of payment;
- Costs of the suit be paid for by the Defendant.
- General damages to be assessed by the Court.
- Any other relief that this Honourable Court may deems fit and just to grant in favour of the Plaintiff.

This suit coming up for Default Judgment on 26th day of February, 2021, before Hon. Dr. D.J. Nangela, Judge in the presence of Ms. Alice Mutungi, Advocate for the Plaintiff and in the absence of the defendant.

THIS COURT DOTH HEREBY ORDER THAT:

The Default Judgment entered in favour of the Plaintiff as follow:-

- The Defendant is hereby ordered to pay to the Plaintiff a sum of TZS 79,195,296.59 being the outstanding loan amount and interest thereon.
- The Defendant is ordered to pay interest on the above sum at rate of 17% per annum, from the date of filing of this case i.e., 19th March, 2019, to the date of this default judgment (i.e., 26th February, 2021).
- The Defendant is ordered to pay interest on decretal amount at rate of 70% from the date of this default judgment till when the decree is fully satisfied;
- The Defendant is ordered to pay to the Plaintiff all Costs pertaining to this suit.
- Since the Plaintiff's supporting affidavit does not offer sufficient proof regarding the prayer for general damages suffered, I decline to award general damages.
- In terms of Rule 22(2) (a) and (b) High Court (Commercial Division) Procedure Rules, 2012 (as amended, 2019), the Court makes further orders that the decree emanating from this suit shall not be executed unless the decree holder has, within a period of ten (10) days from the date of this default judgment, publish a copy of it (the decree) in at least two (2) widely circulated news papers in the country and after a period of twenty one days (21), from the date of expiry of the said ten (10) days, has elapsed.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this day of 26th day of February, 2021.



D. Nangela
.....
Dr. D. Nangela

JUDGE, HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA

(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)

26th day of February, 2021

Extracted on 26th day of February, 2021

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SATURDAY 6 MARCH 2021

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Focusing more on agriculture education will work miracles

AGRICULTURE education programmes not only teach students how to be farmers, but also train tomorrow's scientists, nutritionists, teachers and so much more. A combination of classroom instruction and applied agriculture experiences outside of the classroom build the foundation for educated consumers and agriculturists.

There is unease about the proposed translocation of agriculture and other vocational subjects from the secondary school curriculum to technical institutes. This comes at the dawn of growing youth unemployment and criticism of the school curriculum as being too elitist with no practical skills to equip learners for afterschool life. The rural exodus by school leavers is fuelling urban squalor and crime as young people who seek livelihoods in towns end up in crowded suburbs.

Most young people who come to town cannot find formal employment and end up in squalid suburbs. Agriculture development requires movement of people into urban areas to create space for large scale mechanisation of farms and increase productivity per person. Urban migration also creates opportunities for agricultural markets which arise from increased demand for food by town dwellers. Urbanisation creates a higher purchasing power for agricultural produce by wage earners and a demand for better quality due to changing tastes of urban elite.

The downside is that our urban centres still lack the absorptive capacity to provide jobs for the ever growing number of youth that leave school each year. Farmers should be empowered to educate their children out of farming in a sustainable way to the urban sector in tandem with the rest of economy.

The onus to provide jobs therefore rests on government. In South Korea for example, government

through public-private partnerships, undertakes the initial investments in setting up industrial hubs in different communities. These are then slowly relinquished to the private sector in order for government to move to other areas. This arrangement rests on the logic it is the government which has the funds and ability to mobilise resources for setting up strategic investments which are then devolved to the private sector in much the same way as it does with infrastructure development.

The other strategy is to vocationalise the secondary school curriculum to produce youth with middle level skills needed by both the private sector and newly set up factories. In an agrarian economy such as Uganda, it is agro-processing jobs that come in handy. The agriculture curriculum would have to change from that of principles and practices of production agriculture, focused on raising crops and animals to one of agribusiness and value addition. Besides raising crops and animal products, students need to learn the associated marketing functions that add value and package them for the final consumer.

School exhibitions should then reflect agri-value chain competencies right from production to agri-sales. Secondary school is the cheapest entry point for teaching such skills because they have initial infrastructure like labs and classrooms including school farms, trained teachers, and multiplier effects of large numbers of students.

Secondary schools also lack the stigma technical training as a second rate education pathway. Time, resources and effort are still needed to popularise technical education in the country. For now, the universalisation of secondary education should not have aimed at churning out illiterate graduates but rather the skilled workers who are better prepared for after school life.

Innovation programmes are key in promoting entrepreneurship

IT may not be the 'silver bullet' to the problem of youth unemployment but, innovation programmes have played a significant role in mitigating youth unemployment through expert mentorship, business and technical training, seed funding, market access, to mention but a few.

It is no secret that Tanzania has a very young population with more than 50 per cent of it below 30 years. This shows the dependency rate and the challenges thereof. One major challenge is that this growing young population is not in tandem with the job opportunities available on the market, hence the high youth unemployment rate to-date.

However, the good news is there is an opportunity as a country to incorporate the unemployed youth into the workforce by building entrepreneurship support structures.

The support structures that are needed to build the growth of small businesses and entrepreneurs include incubation hubs where entrepreneurs are nurtured in a suitable environment that support co-creation, knowledge sharing and communities, business development centres, universities, research institutes to build better technologies, favourable policies; and government contracting and financing.

The ongoing Kijana Jiajiri

(Youth Business Tanzania) programme launched in Dar es Salaam two years ago

will support under-served young entrepreneurs across Tanzania to start up and thrive in business.

The programme is being implemented jointly by Youth Business International, the National Economic Empowerment and Competitiveness Centre (TECC). It aims to support young adults with entrepreneurship training and create business start-ups. is one of several projects being implemented under YBI's global partnership with BG Group.

The demand for such a programmes in Tanzania is clear, and is the reason the country has been a key strategic focus of the network teams since. Despite being one of the fastest growing economies in the world, and with a governmental focus on education, Tanzania suffers from a youth unemployment epidemic; there are currently more than nine million unemployed young people in the country, and this number is expected to grow to 15 million by 2030, according to the World Bank.

The partners, NEEC, TECC and YBI, hope that as the programme becomes established other donors will join, enabling the support of thousands of youth-led businesses each year.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com

BEFORE

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AFTER

LOOKING FOR SOCIAL BENEFITS



Where 'charities' may harm

By Sebastien Satigui

US President Joe Biden's pledge to implement a policy of cooperation with other countries, while supporting human rights and democracy, was widely welcomed as a needed return to international collaboration.

The proclamation by the new US Administration is in sharp contrast with the less obvious - but equally powerful phenomenon - the influence private donors and charities may have on policies and plans in developing nations.

News outlets and social media in the Philippines are buzzing about revelations that the country's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) took money from U.S.-based Bloomberg Philanthropies to alter its policies. The Manila Times reported that members of the legislature have introduced a resolution directing the House Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability to conduct an inquiry about the FDA and other agencies accepting funding "in exchange for the issuance of specific and predefined policies against a legitimate industry under Philippine laws..."

In this case, the industry is tobacco - a business whose products are provoking policy discussions across Africa and elsewhere. The Philippine lawmakers' action stemmed from an October hearing on drafting guidelines to regulate electronic nicotine delivery



systems and other heated tobacco products. FDA officials admitted receiving funding from the U.S. charity, which has launched a U.S. \$160 million program to promote a worldwide ban on electronic cigarettes.

Concerns are two-fold. First, what are the implications of powerful international philanthropies giving governments around the developing world money in exchange for specific policy changes - however laudable they may be? Second, does the inflow of private money into official agencies, often without transparency or accountability, contribute to corruption?

Among the issues African governments, non-governmental organizations and local researchers are examining is the promotion of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in agriculture by large donors, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Once seen as the path to a 'green revolution' in Africa, African scientists have begun to raise questions about both potential dangers to indigenous plants and the long-term sustainability of GMO methods and the higher yields they are meant to produce.

The Philippine examination of ques-

tions about national autonomy and potential corruption of politicians from large donations comes at a time when African countries are attempting to come to grips with a smoking epidemic during a pandemic. Africa does not have the highest rates of smoking as a continent, but some countries have among the world's top percentages - and the growth of smoking in the region is among the highest in the world.

Smoking tobacco leads to death for up to half of its users and likely leaves smokers more vulnerable to severe illness and death from Covid-19, in addition to the other known health hazards of tobacco.

An article published last March in the British medical journal The Lancet Respiratory Medicine cites evidence that smokers have higher Covid-19 risk, adding to the already substantial burden on health systems and medical workers. The article says that "the world should aim to be tobacco free, but ... this is unlikely to happen in the near future."

Many nations are looking at electronic nicotine delivery systems usually called e-cigarettes as an imperfect but effective interim solution. "Currently, no evidence suggests that e-cigarette use

increases the risk of being infected by SARS-CoV-2", The Lancet says.

As African health officials are looking for ways to reduce the toll of Covid-19, the worry is that big philanthropy could make 'the perfect enemy of the good'. Many African countries have weak regulatory agencies and infrastructure, making them susceptible to such influences.

Michael Bloomberg, founder of the Bloomberg Philanthropies, has poured billions of dollars into causes to help advance public health. He is a World Health Organization official ambassador for non-communicable diseases, a critically important role in view of the devastating damages caused by cancers and other diseases that hit Africa hard. It is possible to applaud his fight against cigarette smoking, while raising concerns about the charity's insistence that e-cigarettes should also be banned.

The Japan Times, in a largely healthy country where smoking has been among the most challenging health problems, cited a large study published in the New England Journal of Medicine that e-cigarettes were twice as effective at helping smokers quit as alternatives like nicotine patches, gum or lozenges.

And in May 2020, the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health reported that Japan experienced one of the largest, fastest declines in smoking worldwide after the introduction of electronic substitutes for smoking.

If the option of e-cigarettes is taken off the table by large donations, an opportunity to reduce tobacco smoking in Africa may be deferred. That could lead to more deaths and to a preventable additional burden on hard-pressed health systems.

Increasing population of poor Nigerians

By Special Correspondent

NIGERIA'S uncontrolled population is becoming worrying as the prospects of poverty reduction in the near future is increasingly becoming a mirage. This was underscored last week at the virtual launch of the 2021 Macroeconomic Outlook of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG). The World Bank said at the forum that about 15 million to 20 million more Nigerians would be tipped into poverty by 2022. At present, about 100 million people, half the population of Africa's biggest economy, are already living below the poverty line.

World Bank Senior Economist, Gloria Joseph-Raji, said that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Nigerian economy was hard. Indeed, the country experienced its second and deepest recession in five years since the 1980s in 2020,

evidently a fallout of the catastrophic drop in the prices of oil, the country's main foreign exchange earner. "We consider Nigeria right now to be at a critical junction," she said, "in the sense that the achievement of its development goal of lifting 100 million people out of poverty by 2030 was already challenging even before COVID-19 struck, and then COVID-19 has made this even more challenging and more urgent."

Indeed, it is clear why the country is in dire poverty straits. The unemployment rate is uncomfortably high.

According to the latest figure by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), more than 27 per cent of Nigerians are jobless. In spite of this, the population is constantly on the upward swing.

The average family size in the country is 5.6 people, but larger in the north where polygamy is com-

mon. The population is growing at 3.2% a year, a figure that is higher than the development rate. Many homes can hardly provide a good meal for the family while many of the children are out of school. Besides, a large percentage of the urban population lives in slums. But there is even need to worry more: at the present rate of indiscriminate breeding, experts project that the population will balloon to about 402 million or even surpass it by 2050.

As things stand, more Nigerians will be trapped in poverty as the year wanes, in spite of all the noise being made by the government. According to the 2018 World Poverty Clock Report, 85 million people or 45% of Nigeria's population are extremely poor, meaning that they live on less than \$1.90 a day. In 2017 the number was 79 million (43% of population).

In 2016, it was 73 million (40%). So what's the way out? How can Nigerians escape from the cruel fate of poverty starring millions in the eyes?

Both the Chairman of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council, Doyin Salami and the World Bank agree that Nigeria needs to implement key reforms to get the economy out of the woods and achieve sustainable, inclusive growth.

While admitting that the country had taken some bold decisions in a market-based mechanism for petroleum pricing and a more cost-effective electricity tariffs to free up fiscal resources, Joseph-Raji said more could be done to meet the country's broad development goals.

"There is a need for the government to prioritise certain key policy reforms if Nigeria must turn the corner and recover and rebuild resilient and inclusive growth," she said.

Purpose is what drives us

If you've listened to motivational speakers before, then you must have come across the saying that, purpose was key in achieving one's goals whichever their capacity. I did not get it at first. I was still in my 2nd year of college and I thought it wasn't much of my concern till now.

Purpose is what drives us. We have had labels such as rat race to a population that is determined to achieve their goals.

On this, I slightly disagree with the author of Rich Dad Poor Dad. I read the book sometime back and it was an eye-opener on matters concerning financial stability. It was in this rat race, that famed the globe with everyone now wanting out of the purported miniature race. We saw the rise of young executives ready to conquer markets with their innovative products and services.

The book sort of works in either of the ordinary employed person with the 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. schedule and to also the guys who want to escape the tag and they end up opening companies at a young age.

The other day, Mark Zuckerberg's movie showed the combination of purpose and the rewards of the growth mindset.

He spent hours behind his laptop coding and getting his coordinates right. It is almost laughable that he was creating a platform where people could send pictures and messages with friends from the same platform. Him using the name 'The Facebook' clearly defines Zuckerberg's identity.

A decade later, he is dubbed a tech millionaire. Purpose is engraved in the Superman wardrobe of Mark Zuckerberg. He spent hours trying to achieve his true happiness, which was invention. In this century, tech inventors are the bomb.

In past times, we have seen Albert Einstein, Tesla, Newton, and the likes of the Great Henry Ford. These were the revolutionaries and scien-



tists who gave what we now know in the present. Two things were common in all these geniuses, they had purpose and adopted the growth mindset, an attribute that saw them try again even after failing numerous times. Glad we have art, it is much easier.

If you take a keen look at such visionaries, hey knew that if they balanced their equations correctly, they would have found their pot of gold.

Of course, anything without purpose would lack several other important essentials for the success of the goals.

With this, the inventors use their time and dedication in pursuit of their projects and theories. I would say that these few people have a massive influence in the continuity of every individual's routine duties.

For instance, if Zuckerberg woke up and shut down Facebook, there would be an economic crisis across the globe.

Same to the Theories of Newton's Laws of Physics, it is a fundamental topic in education systems across the world.

I would say during Newton's and Einstein's era, life was quite interesting. I would imagine of a situation where one would wake up and find something new that would make their life easier.

Taking a close look at purpose it is essential to understand the less effort it takes to achieve a goal. It is not wrong to use 21st century massive discovery of Internet in enhancing one's purpose.

Even the early man used fire to his advantage. In the same scene of this man striking two rocks together to discover fire, it is in the same equation as of the likes of Zuckerberg, Bill Gates, Albert Einstein, and Isaac Newton. However, it is crucial to get to the growth mindset. There is a dose of resilience in that. For me, I did understand purpose and it works just fine.



Improved stoves will ease degradation of natural forests and wildlife habitats

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE Morogoro based Sustainable Holistic Development Foundation (SUHODE Foundation) has commended government initiatives to conserve and manage the country's natural resources.

The Foundation's Executive Director Frank Luvanda said it is undeniable truth that the government of Tanzania is working hard in combating poaching of wildlife species, degradation of natural forests and water sources. "In the past five years, incidences of poaching have decreased largely as compared prior to 2015. The government of Tanzania has employed different ways in ensuring wildlife sanctuaries are protected intensively and all cases with regard to wildlife poaching particularly Elephants and Rhino have been given higher priorities and heavy penalty in the judiciary system," he said.

SUHODE Foundation, once again commend the government and all other stakeholders who have engaged or supported the government in reducing poaching particularly for Elephants and Rhino in Tanzania. He added.

In the past five years, Elephant and Rhino poaching incidences have decreased and population of Elephants has increasing significantly hence showing steady improvements. Again, this is commendable efforts to the government of Tanzania and various development partners in ensuring Elephants and Rhino poaching is reduced in Tanzania. He said.

However, he said despite such success against wildlife poaching in Tanzania, the country is still facing another sad reality which as Tanzanians and as a country need to be addressed, and that is degradation of natural forests due to many factors such as agricultural expansion, human settlements, illegal and legal logging, higher population, energy demand in the form of charcoal and firewood, wildlife fires, mining, etc. It is important to note that natural forests serve as sanctuaries for various wildlife species, water sources, wetlands, River banks and many other natural resources which are important for the human consumption, survival and development.

Efforts to reduce natural forests degradation in Tanzania require many methodologies such as improving management on sustainable uses of natural forests, enhancing protection of protected areas, managing uses of natural forests in the general land, and promoting uses of improved cook stoves for the purpose of reducing biomass consumption at households and institutional levels for cooking and heating.

SUHODE Foundation, humbly request the government of Tanzania to address drivers of deforestation one after the other; and it thus request the government to start with energy demand; that is not to stop uses of firewood or charcoal at households or institutions but rather to ensure sustainable uses of firewood and charcoal in all households and institutions in Tanzania by increasing energy efficiency. One might ask where are the proofs that energy demand is one amongst key drivers of natural deforestation in Tanzania. The following information from government documents confirms.

Main results from the National Forest Resource Monitoring and Assessment of Tanzania Mainland shows categorically that energy demand is one of the key drivers in the degradation of natural forests in Tanzania.

The report states, "However, the forest sector is facing some challenges. For example, more than 90% of the population of Tanzania mainland use wood based energy for domestic consumption. This leads to wide-



Promoting uses of improved cook stoves will help reduce degradation of natural forests

spread degradation and growing pressure on the forests. Further, deforestation and forest degradation is high" he said

Not only the NAFORMA 2015 report that shows more than 90 percent of population of Tanzania mainland use biomass in the form of charcoal and firewood from natural forests for cooking and heating; there are also other government documents which confirm this percentage namely the National Energy Policy 2015 which states, "The national energy balance indicates dominance of biomass use in the form of charcoal and firewood and its contribution to the total national energy consumption is about 85 percent. Petroleum products contribute about 9.3 percent of the total energy consumed while electricity accounts for 4.5 percent and 1.2 percent from coal and renewable energies." He said.

For his part, the Foundation's field Officer Kasmiri Marseli said data from the Tanzania's Sustainable Energy For All (SE4ALL) Action Agenda 2015 also support by showing categorically that more than 90 percent of Tanzania rural households use biomass from natural forests for cooking and heating whereby firewood represents 68.6 percent while charcoal represents 25.5 percent for urban users leaving only 5.8 percent energy consumption for cooking on electricity, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), kerosene, crop residues, etc. It is therefore right; to assert that energy demand still plays a key role in the degradation of natural forests in Tanzania hence requiring quick actions to ensure natural forests are protected and used sustainably for the benefit of current and future generation as well as for the global benefits.

As a nation, we need to address the sad plight facing natural forests in Tanzania; failure to do so will result in making the country a semi-desert in few years to come. It is well understood that natural forests provide lots of benefits such as hosting water sources, wetlands, wildlife habitats, supporting and balancing weather, absorbing carbon dioxide in excess, and reducing the negative impact of climate change. Failure to protect natural forests will contribute towards reducing the quality and probably hampering tourism, agriculture and various investments that need water and other natural resources in their interventions.

Among other things the NAFORMA report 2015 suggests some of the measures to be taken to address deforestation of natural forests in Tanzania. It states that "To address the drivers of deforestation and forest deg-

radation, there is an urgent need to develop long term integrated solutions involving diverse topics such as land ownership, energy, infrastructure, population growth, poverty, alternative income sources, agriculture, and land use planning to meet sustainable forest management." These might be some of the issues that need to be addressed in order to address deforestation of natural forests in Tanzania. Is it possible to take all these proposed issues at once? Certainly not!

This is due to the fact that some of the issues may require long-term strategies with considerable resources both human and financial. SUHODE Foundation again, humbly request the government of Tanzania to start addressing energy efficiency by imposing mandatory uses of improved cook stoves for all households and institutions in Tanzania. Mandatory uses of improved cook stoves in Tanzania should not be done overnight but rather it should be well planned to ensure smooth shifting from traditional three stone cooking stoves to improved cook stoves, he said. The government can offer two years for every household and institution to prepare itself so that by end of 2022 all have improved cook stoves based on their capacity. Some opponents of the

improved cook stoves assert that they are too expensive; but that is largely not true and partly true.

There are varieties of improved cook stoves that suits all people based on their financial capacities and preferences. There are the so called Affordable Improved Cook Stoves (AICSS) which can be built by local communities using available resources in their localities such as sand, clay soil, stones, and water.

SUHODE Foundation in collaboration with WWF TCO under support from Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) has been training local communities in Mchakama Village - Kilwa District and Njungwa Village - Gairo District in actual making of Affordable Improved Cook Stoves to ensure local communities have the technical know-how on actual making of improved cook stoves. Based on experience undertaken by SUHODE Foundation in collaboration with WWF TCO in two villages of Njungwa, Gairo District and Mchakama, Kilwa District; Affordable Improved Cook Stoves reduce biomass consumption from natural forests by 50% measured through frequencies of entering forests in search for firewood.

Therefore, mandatory uses of improved cook stoves for all households in Tanzania will help in reducing degradation of natural forests by 50%. SUHODE Foundation is convinced that mandatory uses of improved cook stoves is a low hanging fruit to start with in addressing key drivers of deforestation in Tanzania. Other drivers of deforestation such as agricultural expansion, high population, poverty, inadequate land use plan, infrastructure development, human settlements, etc may require integrated approaches to ensure local communities have alternative sustainable livelihood mechanisms and increased crop yield per hectare.

Human population and infrastructure development require their own approaches bearing in mind that the country needs infrastructures to open up more avenues for economic development. With population, it is time to create awareness to people to reduce population taking into consideration the current available natural resources and our ability as a nation to provide basic services to the increased population.

SUHODE Foundation humble request to the government of Tanzania to impose mandatory uses of improved cook stoves comes based on the fact that Tanzania loses 469,420 hectares of natural forests per annum (Tanzania's Forest Reference Emission Level Submission to the UNFCCC" of November 2017).

"I am worried that if this trend is left unchecked and unaddressed in a longer period, our beloved country would continue slowly to be converted into semi-desert country hence hamper lots of development activities in the country from agricultural development to industrial transformation." He said.

Disappearance of natural forests would also contribute towards disappearances of water sources, wetlands, wildlife habitats and species, and many other ecosystem services would be diminished largely.

In addition to imposing mandatory uses of improved cook stoves for all households and institutions in Tanzania; SUHODE Foundation also recommends undertaking natural rejuvenation techniques that would allow degraded natural forests to undergo natural restoration. In semi-arid areas, where natural forests have been depleted, establishment of wood lots using indigenous tree species which are resistant to drought such as Acacia Nilotica, Acacia Tortilis, etc would be convenient. In short, there are lots of recommendations which SUHODE will continue to offer to the government of Tanzania to ensure our natural forests, water sources, and wildlife habitats are protected and managed sustainably, said the Foundation's Gender and Women Empowerment Haika Lwaitama

Vaccine passports controversial but their technology promises big gains to developing countries

GENEVA

THE United Nations is using the digital government technology behind vaccine passports to help developing countries provide essential services to their vulnerable populations.

After a year of Zoom meetings and with vaccinations slowly rolling out, international travel is making a come-back.

The demand is there, even as the virus lingers. Many, especially from developing countries, need to get to work and send remittances home, families need to catch up, countries are getting ready to welcome back tourists and business deals need to be struck.

For this reason, governments are taking a close look at the digital vaccine passport, the post-pandemic equivalent of the yellow fever certificate that could offer the possibility of side-stepping costly PCR tests and quarantine requirements.

The World Health Organization has cautioned against moving too quickly, noting "there are still critical unknowns regarding the efficacy of vaccination in reducing transmission". Dividing society between haves and have-nots also raises ethical concerns and fears of digital creep.

Despite this, the US, EU, UK and Israel, among others, have announced plans to study the feasibility of vaccine passports that could be carried on a smartphone, while the International Air Transport Association, the World Economic Forum and IBM have versions that are ready to roll out.

The idea behind making vaccine passports digital is both to prevent fraud, given reports of fake PCR tests, and connect to existing online booking, check-in and immigration systems.

On getting vaccinated you upload a digital vaccination certificate to your phone. At check-in or immigration, you scan a QR code, then scan your face to authorise, and the phone shares your vaccination status and linked passport details using an encrypted system that also verifies the validity of the certificate against a register on what is called the blockchain.

However, all other personal information, including for facial recognition, stays on your phone. This is different to mobile boarding passes, which are not secure, nor intended to be, and from which anyone who catches a glimpse of the bar code can extract information.

The technology is not new. The UN's trade agency, UNCTAD, is using a similar digital identity system to help the Iraqi government handle business licenses, Estonia operates it in many public agencies, and the UN's pension fund has it to ensure that its retirees are still alive and can continue to be paid.

However, while Covid has helped change many habits, digital documents, even with more basic technology, remain an exception in developing countries,



UN Secretary-General António Guterres (L) gets vaccinated against COVID-19 at Adlai Stevenson High School in the Bronx, New York, last week.

although, as we have seen, the benefits are significant.

For example, when Benin moved its business registration online as the pandemic hit in 2020, using UNCTAD's e-registrations smartphone platform, creation of small businesses, resulting in digital certificates of incorporation, increased 43 percent on the year before. A third of new entrepreneurs were women with half under thirty.

In Lesotho, the One-Stop Business Facilitation Centre went online and noted a sharp reduction in missing fee payments. Civil servants also spent less time carrying files between ministries and more time advising the public.

In Beijing, couples now use self-service kiosks to get married in five minutes (although divorces still need to be done the old-fashioned way).

And El Salvador used an online system

to administer Covid relief money. Over half of applicants were women. Indeed, online services help overcome cultural norms, security considerations and family commitments that would otherwise discourage women from going to the capital city, where government offices are most often located, to spend days in long queues.

Online government services that deliver digital documents also provide an opportunity to simplify unnecessarily complicated procedures. As a result, Benin is now the fastest place in the world to start a business.

The use of digital documents can also allow licenses and permits to be delivered automatically, without human intervention, such as in British Columbia.

<https://orgbook.gov.bc.ca/en/home>

The evidence shows that digital public services are popular. Yet broader adoption remains stymied by a reluctance in many

public administrations to move away from paper, fearful of whether technologies can be trusted or unsure of how to implement them.

Here's where the digital vaccine passport comes in.

As vaccinations roll out, but with immigration authorities talking of making the document mandatory, travellers will want their vaccination to be recognized digitally; their governments will likely accede.

Once governments cross this line, it isn't hard to see the use of digital government documents, and the simplification that comes with them, becoming matter-of-fact across developing country public administrations- whether

for creating companies, paying taxes, buying land or accessing social security.

And with major players having been involved in the development of the vaccine passport, there will be plenty of computer code, lying around in places like Github, to borrow from.

The biggest beneficiaries, as demonstrated in the few countries that have moved online, are those traditionally left behind: women, young people and those living far from their capital city.

They are the ones who stand to gain even more as vaccine passports help make digital government more commonplace and acceptable across the developing world. **IPS**

China eyes 40+ launches in 2021, space station a top priority

By Fan Anqi and Ma Jun

CHINA plans to conduct more than 40 space launches in 2021, with the construction of the country's first space station as its top priority, leading domestic rocket contractor China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp (CASC) said on Wednesday.

In the 2020 Blue Book of China Aerospace Science and Technology Activities issued at a press conference on Wednesday, CASC said parts of the space station, including the Tianhe core cabinet, the Tianzhou-2 and -3 cargo spaceships, and the Shenzhou-12 and -13 manned spacecraft, will be sent into space in 2021.

Another seven commercial launches are planned, which will be open to market users wishing to send micro-sized and small satellites into space, the Blue Book said.

China carried out 39 launches in 2020, sending 89 spacecraft into space and breaking the record for total weight at 103.06 tons, a 29.3-percent increase from the previous year.

China's number of space launches and weight of payloads in 2020 both ranked second in the world after the US, marking major strides forward in China's space exploration, the Blue Book said.

Rounding up the year's aerospace developments, China made remarkable achievements in a number of cutting-edge technologies and major breakthroughs in space missions, it said.

China's latest state-of-the-art carrier rocket, the Long March-5B, made a successful maiden flight in May, sending the assembly of a trial version of the next-generation manned spaceship with a test cargo-returning spacecraft into planned orbit.

The trial run opened the official chapter of China's space station construction, which "lays a solid foundation for a future manned landing on the Moon," said the Blue Book.

During the experimental flight, China conducted a series of space experiments such as its first attempt of in-orbit 3D printing, which aimed to study the feasibility of "self-made" manufacturing in space to address the problem of long supply lines during exploration missions.

Even more thrilling for space fans over the world, China embarked on voyages to the moon and Mars in 2020, suggesting China's growing confidence in the field after years of unremitting efforts.

The country's first Mars exploration project, Tianwen-1, which has a triple mission of orbiting, landing and roving in one flight, embarked on a journey to the Red Planet on July 23, 2020.

After flying in space for 215 days, which took it some 212 million kilometers from Earth, it successfully entered



Photo taken on July 23, 2020, shows people watching China's Tianwen-1 Mars probe being launched from Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in south China's Hainan province. (File photo)

the Martian orbit on Wednesday and will remain there for another three months, with all payloads powered on for scientific study, before eventually touching down, China's National Space Administration said in a statement sent to the Global Times.

China's first lunar sample-retrieval mission, Change-5, concluded its journey on December 17, 2020 after a 23-day adventure to the neighboring celestial body, bringing back with it 1,731 grams of lunar soils, and making China the third country to have successfully brought lunar samples back to Earth after the US and the former Soviet Union.

As one of the most complex and challenging tasks in the country's aerospace history, Change-5 achieved multiple firsts, including the first-ever takeoff from the lunar surface, and the first rendezvous and docking in the lunar orbit.

Impressive as the achievements are, Chinese space analysts note that there remain some technological gaps in the field compared

with the US. Song Zhongping, an aerospace expert and TV commentator, told the Global Times on Wednesday that the US is still the leading force in the global space exploration race.

"Beginning in the 1960s, the US got a head start. Thanks to a relatively strong scientific base that laid the groundwork for aerospace development, the US has formed a more mature, balanced mode with NASA leading the national space programs and Elon Musk spearheading the drive in commercial areas of the aerospace industry."

However, he noted that China has developed its own path, different from the US. "We drew the blueprint for future space missions as a whole and then divided it into parts, which will be realized step by step in a steady manner."

Song illustrated this idea using the examples of China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, deep-space exploration, and manned missions.

Despite the ravaging pandemic that struck the world last year, China not only kept its head high and made steady strides in its own space missions, but it also engaged in multiple space cooperation projects with countries including Argentina, Ethiopia, Egypt and other countries along the Belt and Road routes.

Various types of cooperation were involved, such as satellite exports, cooperative research and development, satellite launches, and application services.

'It's radical': The Ugandan city built on solar, shea butter, people power

KAMPALA

THE village of Okere Mom-Kok was in ruins by the end of more than a decade of war in northern Uganda.

Now, just outside Ojok Okello's living-room door, final-year pupils at the early childhood centre are noisily breaking for recess and a market is clattering into life, as is the local craft brewery, as what has become Okere City begins a new day.

"I think what I'm doing here is radical," says Okello, who is behind an ambitious project to transform the destroyed village of 4,000 people into a thriving and sustainable town.

Okere City began in January 2019. Its 200 hectares (500 acres) feature a school, a health clinic, a village bank and a community hall that also serves as a cinema, a church and a nightclub.

Electricity is available to all, generated from solar energy - a rarity in the region - and far from the many outbreaks of cholera which were rampant years ago, there is now clean water from a borehole.

Pupils at the school pay half their fees in cash, and the rest in maize, beans, sugar and firewood. The clinic lets people pay their bills in instalments. The local security man wields a spear, an unusual sight in an area where many men idle around as women shoulder most of the paid and unpaid work.

Okello is funding the project from his own pocket. Last year, it cost 200 million Ugandan shillings (about £39,000). The London School of Economics graduate and development expert had worked for several international charities and NGOs but grew disillusioned seeing projects fail because, he says, communities were not involved in decisions about their own future.

When he returned a few years ago to Okere Mom-Kok, hoping to meet extended family in the village he had left as a baby when his civil servant father was killed in the bush wars of the 1980s, he decided to put what he had learned into action. He wanted to create a project that was truly led by the people who lived there.

Okere now generates revenue. Every project, from the school to the local bar, can fund itself, something that has been possible because the project is being built not as a charity, but as a social enterprise, Okello says.

"I don't want this project to be at the mercy of some white people," he says. "I want us to have business conversations with partners. I want us to be responsible for shaping the destiny and the future of the project."

Translated from Lango, Okere Mom-Kok means, "a baby should not



Members of the Okere community

cry" and the logo for the project has a smiling baby's face. But Okello quips that building the town has been far from all smiles.

While comparisons could be made to Akon City, the futuristic smart city with its own currency being built by R&B star Akon in Senegal, Okere is, in essence, the opposite, according to Amina Yasin, an expert in city planning, who works in Vancouver, Canada.

"Akon City is going to be a walled city for the wealthy," she says. "It sounds like a capitalist endeavour on the African continent. It is to benefit mostly non-indigenous Africans, unfortunately."

Okere City will pioneer green energy, but its unique selling point is its shea trees. Okello says the inspiration came to him via the Marvel blockbuster movie Black Panther, as he sat under a shea tree outside his house one afternoon in early 2020.

"I looked at [the shea tree] and realised that we have this impor-

tant natural resource and we were not harnessing it," Okello says. "And I thought about Wakanda and Black Panther, they had vibranium, this shea tree could be our vibranium."

"So I am like: 'Damn, I'm going to invest everything within my means to tap this resource, to protect [it], and to use it to emancipate my community.'"

In August, Okere Shea Butter arrived on the market. The whole city smells of shea butter, and Okello has advocated for the protection and regeneration of shea trees, classed as an endangered species threatened by extinction.

Once a week an investment club meets in the community hall. As the sun starts to set over the city, the members assemble in a circle. The majority of the more than 100 members are women, mostly farmers, but some also run small businesses.

"I got a loan from the club to

buy shea seeds, which I sold at a profit," says member Acen Olga.

Members' financial contributions are carefully recorded before being redistributed as loans to members who need them. When borrowers repay the loan, the cycle continues.

This style of banking is particularly important because it's original to Africans, Yasin says.

"The way in which indigenous continental Africans have thought about money has always been outside of the central banking system," she says. "It's been about community and caring for each other, and patience, and long-term investments."

"We've always known a lot earlier than the western world and other, quote, unquote, developed nations, that money was out of fashion and it was not a sustainable way to live."

Just metres from the club, past the community clinic, the supermarket is buzzing, and laughter

can be heard from customers in the pub attached.

Before the supermarket opened, villagers had to walk five miles (8km) for supplies.

"There's a lot of improvement," says Wilfred Omodo, 25, who has joined Okere City kickboxing team, which was set up in November. "We have more buildings now and even the people are increasing."

Omodo started boxing while he was in a camp for people displaced by fighting in the region in the late 1990s and early 2000s. He is one of about 80 members of Okere's boxing team, most of whom took up the sport for self-defence during the conflict.

Among them is 40-year-old Nickson Akaca who coordinates the team. He is equally inspired by the progress of the project so far.

"This place was basically a wilderness; there was nothing here," he says. "And within a very short period of time, there has been a lot of change and progress. It gives us hope that maybe our passion to do kickboxing will not just go to waste."

But rural to urban development projects only work if they are created by and include the communities they are working to serve, says Yasin.

"Okere City is being intentionally developed with the community in mind," she says. "Whereas what we often see in cities across the world that do something similar is individuals who are kind of running away from larger cities and settling in smaller communities that they aren't from."

Africa is not on track to achieve zero hunger by 2030 – FAO

By Special Correspondent

FOOD and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Regional Representative for Africa, Abebe Haile-Gabriel, has disclosed that Africa is not on track to achieve zero hunger by 2030.

He said this in a meeting reviewing progress made by the continent towards attaining that goal so far.

Co-organised by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Congo, the meeting is part of the Seventh Session

of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) that is underway in Brazzaville and virtually monitored by the Ghana News Agency.

"The results remain unsatisfactory and there are many challenges due to climate change, the poor economic situation and the negative impacts of COVID 19, as well as the lack of public investment," said Haile-Gabriel.

He, however, said the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was a unique opportunity for the transformation of the continent's food system.

To address the issue of hunger in Africa,

Haile-Gabriel said political will and commitment at the highest level was key, adding national and local level actions and investments were also critical.

He said there was an urgent need for the continent to build and move forward better after the COVID-19 pandemic, with governments being called on to invest in social protection measures to save the most vulnerable in society.

The transformation of the African food system was crucial to help end hunger, he said, adding that the adoption of holistic multi sectoral approaches was needed.

Chris Toe, representative of WFP, said

African countries needed to prioritise and scale up investments in rural transformation, sustainable infrastructure and human capital development as they worked towards eliminating hunger and food insecurities.

This, he said, will not only help to sustain ongoing progress, but also assist in the continent's quest to achieve zero hunger as espoused in the SDGs and Africa's 2025 commitment to end hunger and Agenda 2063 aspirations.

Mukena Bantu, a Congolese government official, an adviser in charge of cooperation and projects, speaking on behalf of Agricul-

ture Minister, Joseph-Antoine Kasongo, said the new administration was determined to accelerate the development of agriculture to end hunger.

"We have declared that the soil must take over the subsoil," he said, adding, "There is political will to carry out all the actions necessary to achieve food security".

The side event provided a platform for member States to reflect and share on transformative actions and investments that will facilitate the building of Africa's food systems better towards meeting the aspirations and goals of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

African airline business in much worse situation with decline in demand

LAGOS

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has said African airline business has gone from bad to worse as African airlines recorded 66.1 percent decline in passenger traffic in January 2021.

In its report entitled 'From bad to worse: January passenger demand falls further', Ripples Nigeria gathered that COVID-19 aftermath continues to affect the aviation industry in sub-saharan region.

The report stated capacity contracted by 54.2 percent two months ago, while load factor fell to 52.3 percent, after shedding 18.4 percentage points. It was gathered that in the month under review, total demand (measured in revenue passenger kilometers or RPKs) plunged

to 72 per cent when compared to the corresponding period in 2019.

IATA said the decline in total demand was worse due to year-over-year decline which recorded 69.7 per cent in December 2020. IATA's Director-General and Chief Executive Officer, Alexandre de Juniac, blamed new COVID-19 variants that has forced governments to increase travel restrictions.

"Year 2021 is starting off worse than 2020 ended and that is saying a lot. Even as vaccination programmes gather pace, new COVID-19 variants are leading governments to increase travel restrictions."

COVID-19 this year –IATA

"The uncertainty around how long these restrictions will last also has an impact on future travel. For-



ward bookings in February this year for the Northern Hemisphere summer travel season were 78 per cent below levels in February 2019," Alexandre de Juniac said.

The decline was, however, not noticed in the air cargo category as global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometres, rose 1.1 percent when compared to the same period in January 2019, but rose over 3 per cent when compared to previous month, December 2020.

This growth was the first since January 2019, Africa and North America appearing as the strongest performers, IATA report on air cargo, titled 'January air cargo demand recovers to pre-COVID levels' disclosed, adding that Asia-Africa trade partnership contributed to the growth as well.

Month-on-month growth in demand was driven by North America and Africa, with demand rising by 22.4 percent in January 2021 when compared to same period in 2019. It also rose beyond the 6.3 percent year-over-year increase for December 2020.

Africa needs to tackle inequalities during COVID-19 recovery process

BRAZZAVILLE

THE COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light inequalities that have been around for a while in the African continent. Women, youth and vulnerable populations including refugees, migrants, indigenous people, older persons, the disabled and children still remain at risk of various inequalities.

One of the major challenges in the world is poverty and inequalities. During a parallel meeting, SDG 10 on "Reduced Inequalities" was seen to have linkages to SDG 1 on "No Pov-

erty", SDG 2 on "Zero Hunger", SDG 3 on "Good Health and Well-being", SDG 4 on "Quality Education", SDG 5 on "Gender Equality", SDG 8 on "Decent Work and Economic Growth" and also Aspiration 1 of African Union's Agenda 2063 which calls for "A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development".

This was shown in a presentation by Mphumza Manqindi, Migration Policy and Liaison Officer with IOM Ethiopia. In her presentation, she noted that the African Continental Free Trade Agree-

ment (AfCFTA) offers an opportunity to increase returns from remittances but also noted that governments need to encourage the free movement of persons within the continent. In Africa, women participation and representation is still a key issue with a lot of women within the continent still lacking access to equal opportunities as their male counterparts. However, a contrary example to this is the Rwandan government where over half of the parliamentary seats are held by women. This offers an encouragement to women as

there is little participation of women in decision-making within the continent.

Mabingue Ngom, Regional Director for UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO), for his part highlighted the challenges heightened by crisis situations. To this he gave the example of the Sahel region where a lot of children do not go to school as these regions invest more in security. He added that education, health, security and climate change are key areas that need to be addressed to ensure reduced inequalities.

The UNHCR promotes inclu-

sivity and forges partnerships in this regard with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) seeking to address inequalities. The UNHCR also supports economies which host refugees.

Cosmas Chanda, UNHCR's representative to the AU, also noted that the UNHCR has invested in initiatives to collect data like the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement. He also emphasized the need for partnership for poverty reduction in the Covid-19 response.

The need for Africa to produce her own vaccines was

agreed to be a pressing matter. The collapse of some health and economic systems in Africa with human capital continuing to be depleted showcase the need to invest in interdisciplinary research for inclusive development. Africa also needs to close the technological capabilities gap with the pandemic showing the rural-urban digital capabilities gap.

Interventions recommended from the participants included minimizing taxes levied on mobile money transfer in the case of Uganda, engaging the formal sector in digitization and reducing in-

equalities that arise from lack of access to water especially where women and girls are adversely affected.

However, despite the continuing challenges arising from inequalities within the continent, there is an opportunity to build back better and recover from the pandemic. Africa has a booming young population, increasing connectivity through transport and communication and increasing freedom of movement within regional blocs which offer a comparative advantage in tackling the impacts of Covid-19.

WOMEN'S DAY: Award winning hotel director talks on customer service



By Daniel Eliewaha

IN recent years there have been numerous events organised to congratulate and uplift various talented, women, but more than that, those who stood up in entrepreneur activities and socially recognised.

Dina Marios is a versatile woman, a radio and television broadcaster who has been in the forefront to publicise enterprising women after starting an awards ceremony titled 'Women of the Year Awards.'

We have also heard of other awards started by the late Ruge Mutahaba of Clouds FM known as 'Malkia wa Nguvu,' (Versatile Queen) which excited many women entrepreneurs.

A recent event which attracted many people involved 25 women who won annual awards for women, and they won after obtaining many votes in a social media ballot.

The women concern themselves with various enterprising activities like sewing clothes, selling goods, supervising the building of houses, providing health care services and nursery schools, artistes, hotel supervisors and care givers, etc.

One of the participants who obtained an award and thrilled partic-

ipants in that event in Dar es Salaam is Haika Lawere (43), who is at present director of Mbezi Garden in Kinondoni district.

In an interview with Haika, who is among the few women in the country to operate a high class hotel, she said the hotel was started by her father Wilson Lawere in 1994, but sadly her father passed away late 1999.

Her mother, who name is Amini, took the stick of operating the hotel for several years and it performed well commercially. Later she handed it to Haika who has a Masters in Business Management, obtained at a British university in 2005.

This reporter sought to know if there were no conflicts among siblings in inheriting the business that was started by their father. Haika bravely said that there were no conflicts since the family members are devout, and after their father left the world they held prayer vigils to avoid sinking into conflicts of any kind.

When I asked how they managed to run their hotel efficiently and obtain a substantial profit in an area with intense competition from other hotels like Prim Rose, Sunset, Five Star, Royal Palace, Shekina, Red Hall, Makete 2, Nguruko, Regina Hall, Kiramwe, etc Haika said there are three key issues they considered in order to ride over the competition.

First, they prepared a special programme for business development, a comprehensive growth plan, whose priority was training existing workers, but also thrust themselves to refurbishing the buildings, putting up new structures for instance meant for handling events and ceremonies, improving the dining lounge and in lodges, creating a business complex and a children's playing area.

She said they took a big loan from a major commercial bank, which helped in expanding hotel facilities.

She all the same emphasised that timely repayment of the loan is crucial, as some entrepreneurs end up with a heart attack for having failed to repay their loans on time and harassment from banks begins. Learn to pay bank loans on time so that you become free, she added.

Haika similarly touched on the importance of strengthening customer service. "What we do all the time after an event is to follow those holding it to give views on that event, and if there is an area we didn't get right or erred in rendering services. We even give them forms to fill and to phone them so that they air their views. We have collected plenty of views and we don't hesitate to work on them," she further noted.

The director noted that each week the hotel has an event held there for wedding or send off, in which case they have four ceremonies per month, implying around 160 events annually.

"We have seen the great importance of social media. We record all these events and place them online. And we give our customers the facility to watch those events and provide us with customer feedback," she said, elaborating that they have many followers on social media, an average of 68,000 for one post, compared with their competitors who often chalk up about 4,000 followers for each post.

Organisers of the awards mentioned Haika as a woman with a big vision on her business and especially hard working in pursuing it. She is a director with good strategies for markets and public relations. She also cares about her family and educating her three children at Feza Boys & Girls so that they get a good education and become leaders in our country in the near future. We wish Haika Lawere pleasant successes and great strides in her business.



RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



SATURDAY PROGRAMME

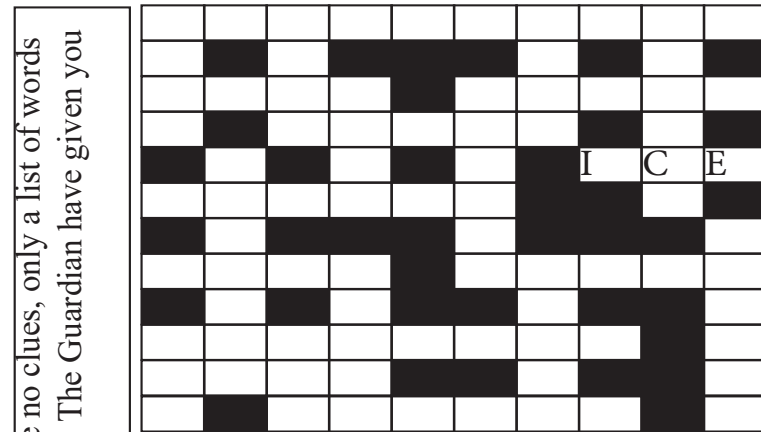
TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	COMMERCIALS
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
07.15 AM	NEWSPAPERS REVIEW
07.30 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI
09.00 AM	WATOTO SHOW
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.15 AM	MIWANI YA MAISHA
11.00 AM	MTAA WA MAGOMA
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13.30 HRS	CHAGUO LAKO
15.00 HRS	MUZIKI NA MICHEZO
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.15 HRS	MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO
18.00 HRS	BONGO TEN
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.15 HRS	CHEMSHA BONGO
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.03 HRS	WEEK END SHOW I
22.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
22.15 HRS	WEEK END SHOW II
23.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
23.03 HRS	WEEK END SHOW III
01:00-05:00HRS	MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE

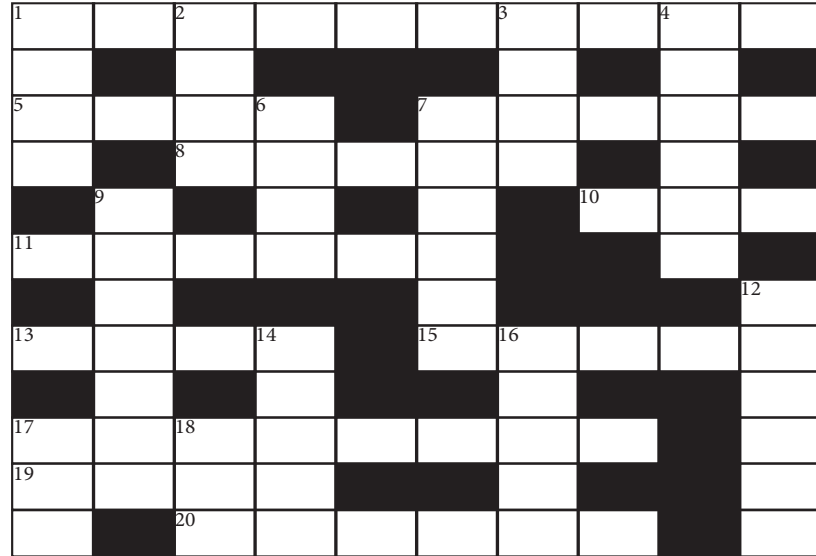


SATURDAY	
07:30-10:00HRS	DK 90 DUNIANI
10:00-11:00HRS	KADOGOO
11:00-13:00HRS	BONGO HITS
13:00-14:00HRS	DW RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO
16:00-18:00HRS	ALIYEVUMA
18:00-21:00HRS	BUZUKI TIME
21:00-22:00HRS	SPOTI
22:00-00:00HRS	ALIYEVUMA(marudio)
00:00-01:00HRS	HALI HALISI(marudio)
01:00-05:00HRS	DAKIKI 90(marudio)
05:00-07:00HRS	ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO(marudio)

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00164 00--



- 3 LETTERS: ICE, LAY, BOY
- 4 LETTERS: FINE, EASE, NEST, ABEL, TACO, AGED
- 5 LETTERS: MEANT, EASEL, EMBED, DIENE
- 6 LETTERS: ADRIFT, YEMENI, EUNUCH, MEAGRE, MEKONG, MILAN,
- 7 LETTERS: PENGUIN
- 8 LETTERS: LIBERALS
- 10 LETTERS: FREE LOADER



- CLUES: Across**
- profession of being a journalist
 - Chief city of Togo
 - present food to someone
 - make suitable for a new use
 - place in a particular position
 - Paris is her Capital city
 - be absolutely sure about something
 - milk and milk products collectively
 - physically dependent on a particular substance
 - a chair
 - work requiring little skill and lacking prestige
- Down:**
- named after Julius Caesar
 - the whole community of Muslims
 - a yearly court of record held by the lords of certain manors
 - appreciate to the full
 - Garden of Adam and Eve
 - distribute over a wide area
 - small bomb thrown by hand
 - a traditional Japanese inn
 - the color of milk
 - a sphere of activity
 - say something in order to obtain an answer
 - a barrier constructed to hold back water

WORD-FIT

CROSSWORD

SOLUTIONS

3 L A V E T R A D E T A N G A N Y I K A A
 C L O E I E U A
 A B L E P O R T S M E E T N A I R A
 R Y E A R N E E D E M O N A S
 C L E A C T I T A N R S T Y
 P H A S E S T S H A D O W E
 A E S E A A
 U N I T T H E M E L A M P Y A R D S
 N O O N T L B S
 M E A N D E R S A C R E A T I O N I
 A L O E S T C E N T V S
 T K R A K E N E M D E X T E R T

BUSINESS

Stanbic Holdings reports Sh5bn net profit for last year

NAIROBI

STANBIC Holdings has reported a 18.6 per cent drop in its full-year to December 2020 net profit on subdued interest income and higher loan provisions as Covid-19 pandemic hit the economy.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed lender made Sh5.19 billion last year down from Sh6.38 billion recorded in 2019.

The profit of Stanbic Bank and its investment arm, SBG Securities, both declined by 19 per cent and 71 per cent respectively pulling down the group's performance.

Higher loan provisioning across the banking industry ate into the lenders' profitability as bad loans and cost took a sharp rise in an economy that was battered by the pandemic-related woes.

Six of the 11 listed banks have already notified shareholders they will be reporting substantially lower profits and are therefore unlikely to be paying dividends for the year.

Stanbic increased loan provisioning by 64.7 per cent to Sh4.3 billion in the wake of the virus crisis that saw massive layoffs, pay cuts and companies' declined revenues, hurting borrowers' ability to repay.

"The Group increased its provisioning to reflect the worsening credit risk on the back of layoffs and liquidity constraints on businesses caused by the pandemic," said Stanbic Kenya CEO Charles Mudiwa on Friday.

Stanbic restructured loans worth Sh40 billion during the year for over 7,200 individuals and businesses.

Net interest income dropped by 4.1 per cent to Sh12.8 billion, while non-interest income declined by 8.7 per cent to Sh10.4 billion.

The lender attributed this to the Sh283 million foregone as fee revenue following Central Bank of Kenya's order to zero-rate transfers between banks and mobile wallets, as well as reduced interest rates in line with falling indicating rates.

Stanbic was able to maintain an adequate liquidity of 56.4 per cent above the banking sector's liquidity which climbed to 54.55 per cent by the end of December.

"The Group maintained a strong balance sheet growth as evidenced by a 12 per cent increase in customer deposits and four per cent growth in customer loans and advances," Mr Mudiwa said.

The lender will pay Sh1.5 billion in final dividend, representing Sh3.80 per share, a drop from Sh2.79 billion paid out in 2019.

The lender hopes to diversify revenue streams to register growth.

"In a fast-changing world, we recognise the need to adapt to evolving risks, optimise resource allocation and drive returns. In doing so, we will leverage our core strengths, while seeking new ways to expand our offering and diversify our revenue streams further," Mr Mudiwa said.



A Stanbic Bank branch on Kimathi Street, Nairobi. File Photo.

Twelve NMB Bank customers win maiden 'Bonge la Mpango' prizes

By Guardian Reporter

THE first batch of 12 NMB Bank Plc's customers have won various prizes in the first draw of a deposits mobilization campaign dubbed 'Bonge la Mpango.'

The campaign which last 90 days will see hundreds win cash and materials prizes as the bank splashes a record 550m/- in total to back the exercise.

During the first draw held at the bank's head office in Dar es Salaam, 10 of the lucky customers

won money, which has been deposited in their accounts, while two each won a cargo three-wheeler.

Speaking at the event, NMB acting Head of Personal Banking, Ally Ngingite said the competition's winners will be drawn from all over the country involving all NMB branches across Tanzania. Ngingite said the three-month campaign is also a way of rewarding customers for their continued trust in the market's largest bank.

"At the end of the campaign, over 550m/- in prizes will be

won including the grand prize of a brand new Toyota Fortuner worth 169m/-," Ngingite noted while adding that during weekly draws, new customers will stand a chance to win cash prizes of up to 500,000/- depending on the amount deposited while existing customers can win more.

"When the promotion ends, 24 LIFAN three-wheelers will have been won in weekly draws," he added while noting that during the campaign, a Tata - 'Kirikuu' pick-up will be won every month by a luck depositor.

Before the draw was conducted, Gaming Board of Tanzania inspector Elibariki Sengasenga assured the public against any mischievous acts in picking the winners. He noted that all 'Bonge la Mpango' draws like all raffles conducted by NMB Bank, will be done transparently and observe the country's gaming law and regulations.

"I commend NMB for excelling in this area since all their raffles are conducted professionally and according to the gaming law of the land," Sengasenga said.



How young professional programme helps digital workforce in East Africa

KAMPALA

THE Young Professional Programme, SAP's flagship digital skills build initiative, has welcomed the graduation of 27 SAP Associate Consultants in East Africa following their successful completion of an all-virtual training program.

After switching to a fully virtual delivery in light of COVID-19, opportunities were created for candidates from more countries to participate in the SAP Young Professional Program across the African continent.

The latest group of graduates from East Africa included candidates from Kenya and Ethiopia, as well as giving candidates in Uganda and Tanzania their first opportunity to receive SAP training and certification as part of the program.

Cathy Smith, Managing Director at SAP Africa, says the pandemic has accelerated digital transformation across the continent, creating greater need for digital skills.

"Organisations across the continent continue to adapt to a world reshaped by the pandemic, fast-tracking their

digital transformation journeys in an effort to maintain business productivity and drive innovation;

It is vital to us that our customers and partners have access to the depth of SAP skills they need to thrive. This latest cohort of graduates will play an important role supporting organisations across the East African region."

With renewed focus on regional and pan-African cooperation through initiatives such as the newly-launched Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement and the East Africa Community, African countries and their citizens have the opportunity to collaborate like never before.

By hosting all training in a multi-country, all-virtual environment, the SAP Young Professional Program is playing a role by helping foster greater cross-cultural collaboration between candidates that would normally not have the opportunity to work together.

Eva Sang, a graduate hailing from Kenya, says: "The collaboration and sharing of ideas across boundaries not only enriched the learning experience, we gained valuable insights about each other's countries and culture. It also enabled us to

create strong professional and personal networks in the region, that would come in handy during international assignments."

For Estifanos Alemseged, a graduate from Ethiopia, the Young Professional Program was an empowering experience. "Applying for the program was one of the best decisions I made in my life. It has given me a ticket to land and explore an outstanding career path. At this moment I'm confident and excited to contribute to the digital transformation of my country and region."

Ugandan graduate Natasha Nkurunziza says the program helped her discover her capabilities. "I loved both the Business Process Integration course and SAP Activate Manager because it gave me an overview of what SAP S/4 HANA entails and how to deliver projects with SAP Best Practices, thus giving me a chance to figure out what I would like to major in from an informed point of view."

Since its inception in 2012, the SAP Young Professional Program, an initiative under SAP Skills for Africa, has trained more than 3150 talents across 31 countries, including more than 1390 in Africa. "The two- to three-month

program covers SAP software technical and

functional knowledge and certification, with a key focus on the latest SAP innovations. Soft and future skills trainings ensure graduates can make an immediate impact in the organisations they work for after graduation", explains Marita Mitschein, Managing Director of the SAP Training and Development Institute and Senior Vice President Digital Skills at SAP Southern Europe, Africa and Middle East, who launched the program in 2012.

The cohort in East Africa is part of a collaboration between SAP and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH with the aim to jointly create 450 jobs for highly-qualified personnel in the IT sector in ten African countries over the course of three years.

The cooperation project is supported by the Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation, which operates under the brand Invest for Jobs, and the developPPP, de program that GIZ implements on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Safaricom seeks app firms to open new revenue streams

NAIROBI

SAFARICOM is seeking partnership with software engineering firms as it races to build more in-house mobile phone applications.

"The partners will co-create the software with Safaricom...the partners can then agree on a marketing and operations model," said Safaricom in internal documents seen by the Business Daily.

The move will see Safaricom tap Kenya's pool of well-resourced app developers.

Safaricom, part-owned by South Africa's Vodacom and Britain's Vodafone, is under pressure to create new revenue streams as its voice business matures.

Safaricom's M-Pesa, launched in Kenya more than a decade ago is one of the most popular modes of payment in Kenya. At the end September it had nearly 27 million active users in a population of 47 million.

M-Pesa, started by Safaricom in 2007, has evolved from a basic mobile money transfer application into a fully-fledged financial service platform, offering loans and savings in partnership with local banks, plus merchant payment services.

Like M-Pesa, Safaricom has also introduced Digifarm that offers farmers credit and insurance against weather damage as well as training programmes, and advice on soil testing to increase yields.

Digifarm bypasses middlemen, giving small-holder farmers direct access to low-cost seeds and fertiliser, credit providers, and bulk purchasers of their produce.

In 2018, Safaricom piloted a social messaging app that it said then would link to its mobile money platform. It is not clear what became of the project dubbed Bonga, translating to 'chat' in Kiswahili.

Kenya's fast-growing technology sector, nicknamed "Silicon Savannah", has attracted many entrepreneurs from places like the United States and United Kingdom supported by a pool of well-resourced software app developers in the country.



Safaricom headquarters on Nairobi's Waiyaki Way. File Photo.

US job growth regained steam in February

WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES job growth likely accelerated in February as more services businesses reopened amid falling new COVID-19 cases, quickening vaccination rates and additional pandemic relief money from the government, putting the labor market recovery back on firmer footing and on course for further gains in the months ahead.

The Labor Department's closely watched employment report on Friday will, however, also offer a reminder that as the United States enters the second year of the coronavirus pandemic the recovery remains excruciatingly slow, with millions of Americans experiencing long spells of joblessness and permanent unemployment.

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Thursday offered an optimistic view of the labor market, but cautioned a return to full employment this year was "highly unlikely."

"We will probably see more people having gone back on payrolls," said Sung Won Sohn, a finance and economics professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. "Many will be related to service jobs, but that will not mean a rapid increase in jobs. It's a slow progress toward eventual full recovery."

Nonfarm payrolls likely increased by 182,000 jobs last month after rising only 49,000 in January, according to a Reuters poll of economists. Payrolls declined in December for the first time in eight months.

Economists saw no impact from the mid-February deep freeze in the densely populated South as the winter storms hit after the week during which the government surveyed establishments and businesses for the employment report.

But unseasonably cold weather last month, especially in the Northeast, and production cuts at auto assembly plants because of a global semiconductor chip shortage likely shortened the average workweek.

The labor market has been slow to respond to the drop in daily coronavirus cases and hospitalizations, which helped fuel a boost in consumer spending in January that prompted economists to



Construction workers wait in line to do a temperature test to return to the job site after lunch, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in the Manhattan borough of New York City. File Photo.

sharply upgrade their gross domestic product growth estimates for the first quarter.

Historically, employment lags GDP growth by about a quarter. But economists believe the catching up started in February, a year after the economy fell into recession at the start of the U.S. COVID-19 outbreak.

A survey last week showed consumers' perceptions of the labor market improved in February after deteriorating in January and December. In addition, a measure of manufacturing employment increased to a two-year high in February.

Though millions are unemployed, companies are struggling to find workers, which is contributing to holding back job growth. A survey on Wednesday showed employment growth in the services industry slowed last month, with businesses reporting they were "unable to fill vacant positions with qualified applicants."

That was underscored by an NFIB survey on Thursday showing 91 percent of small businesses trying to hire in February reported few or no qualified applicants for their open positions.

This labor market dichotomy is because the pandemic is keeping some workers at home, fearful of accepting or returning to jobs that could expose them

to the virus.

It has also disproportionately affected women who have been forced to drop out of the labor force to look after children as many schools remain closed for in-person learning. According to Census Bureau data, around 10 million mothers living with their own school-age children were not actively working in January, 1.4 million more than during the same month in 2020.

The Fed's Beige Book report on Wednesday showed there are shortages of workers in both low-skill and skilled trade occupations. The vacancies are mainly in the high-growth industries that have fared well throughout the pandemic, such as information technology, engineering, construction, customer support, manufacturing, and accounting and finance.

"Jobseekers are more hesitant to pursue many of the in-demand roles that are required to be onsite, particularly in industries like manufacturing, which has seen double digit increases in job roles like assemblers and warehouse managers," said Karen Fichuk, CEO of Randstad North America.

The virus has greatly altered the economic landscape and many of the services industry jobs lost will likely not return.

Though the unemployment rate has dropped below 10 percent, it has been understated by people misclassifying themselves as being "employed but absent from work." It is expected to have held steady at 6.3 percent in February. Just over 4 million Americans had been unemployed for more than six months in January, while 3.5 million were permanently unemployed.

Given the difficulties of retraining, structural unemployment could account for a bigger share of joblessness in the near future.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel. Economists believe the labor market will gather steam in the spring and through summer, with vaccinations increasing daily, even though the pace of decline in COVID-19 infections has flattened recently.

A boost to hiring is also expected from President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion recovery plan, which is under consideration by Congress.

"The labor force will begin a meaningful recovery in mid-2021 as extensive vaccine distribution will push toward herd immunity, reducing health concerns and allowing for a more complete recovery of some hard-hit industries," said Ryan Sweet, a senior economist at Moody's Analytics in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Texas grid operator made \$16 billion price error during winter storm, watchdog says

NEVADA

TEXAS' power grid operator Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) made a \$16 billion pricing error in the week of the winter storm that led to power outages across the state, Potomac Economics, which monitors the state's power market, said.

ERCOT kept market prices for power too high for more than a day after widespread outages ended four years ago, Potomac Economics, the independent market monitor for the Public Utility Commission of Texas, which oversees ERCOT, said in a filing.

"In order to comply with the Commission Order, the pricing intervention that raised prices to VOLL (value of lost load) should have ended immediately at that time," Potomac Economics said.

"However, ERCOT continued to hold prices at VOLL by inflating the Real-Time On-Line Reliability Deployment Price Adder for an additional 32 hours through the morning of February 19," it said, adding the decision resulted in \$16 billion in additional costs to ERCOT's markets.

The findings of Potomac Economics were reported first on Thursday by Bloomberg and the Texas Tribune. Separately, rating agency Moody's Investors Service downgraded ERCOT by one notch from A1 to Aa3 and revised the grid operator's credit outlook to "negative" on Thursday.

On Wednesday, ERCOT's board ousted chief executive Bill Magness, as the fallout continued from a blackout that left residents without heat, power or water for days.

The mid-February storm temporarily knocked out up to half the state's generating plants, triggering outages that killed dozens and pushed power prices to 10 times the normal rate.

Many of ERCOT's directors have resigned in the last week and the head of the state's Public Utility Commission, which supervised ERCOT, resigned on Monday.

Top Toshiba shareholder gets further support for proposed investigation

TOKYO

EFFISSIMO Capital Management has gained further backing in its push for a probe into Toshiba Corp, but big stakes built up by investors like BlackRock have raised questions over how much influence it and other activist shareholders will ultimately wield.

Glass Lewis became on Friday the second major proxy advisor to recommend shareholders vote in favour of an independent investigation into allegations that investors were pressured ahead of last year's annual general meeting.

Singapore-based Effissimo, which is Toshiba's top shareholder with a 9.9 percent stake, made the proposal after investor complaints about the last AGM.

Reuters has reported the Har-

vard University endowment fund had been told by a Japanese government adviser that it could be subject to a regulatory probe if it voted against management at the AGM. The fund abstained from voting as a result and later learnt there was no basis for any probe, sources have said.

Toshiba conducted its own investigation into complaints about last year's AGM and found it was not involved in any effort to pressure the Harvard fund. It did not reach a conclusion as to whether there had been any pressure.

The vote about the proposed independent investigation will take place at an extraordinary shareholders' meeting on March 18.

Activist investors are estimated to hold about 25 percent of Toshiba's shares and their dissatisfac-

tion with management saw Chief Executive Nobuaki Kurumatani only narrowly hang onto his job with 57 percent of the vote at the last AGM.

Toshiba, however, was reinstated in the Topix index on Feb. 25, requiring index-linked funds to purchase its shares - a shift that is expected to dilute the influence of activist shareholders in the longer term.

Both BlackRock Inc and Mizuho Financial Group Inc have built stakes of 5 percent in Toshiba, filings on Friday and late Thursday showed - stakes which sources familiar with the matter said likely reflects the need to have shares on hand for their customers.

Toshiba shares jumped 6 percent on the news. But to vote at the March 18 meeting, sharehold-



ers need to have held Toshiba shares as of Feb. 1. It is unclear at what point BlackRock and Mizuho began additional share purchases. BlackRock and Mizuho declined to comment. Toshiba had no immediate comment.

Glass Lewis also joined Institutional Shareholder Services Inc (ISS) in

recommending that a probe look into allegations of vote miscounting at last year's AGM.

Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank Ltd has acknowledged it made mistakes in the counting but Effissimo says some irregularities have not been accounted for.

Unlike ISS, Glass Lewis also backed a proposal from U.S. hedge fund Farallon Capital Management, Toshiba's second largest shareholder, which wants the board to present a five-year capital policy plan or make certain returns to shareholders.

Oil hits high after OPEC+ extends output cuts

LONDON

OIL prices jumped more than 2 percent on Friday, hitting their highest in nearly 14 months after OPEC and its allies agreed not to increase supply in April as they await a more substantial recovery in demand.

Brent crude futures were up \$1.52, or 2.3 percent at \$68.26 a barrel by 1008 GMT and U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures climbed \$1.30, or 2%, to \$65.13 as both remained on track for weekly gains.

Both contracts surged more than 4% on Thursday after the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies, together known as OPEC+, extended oil output curbs into April, granting small exemptions to Russia and Kazakhstan.

"OPEC+ settled for a cautious approach ... opting to increase production by just 150,000 barrels per day (bpd) in April while market participants looked for an increase of 1.5 million bpd," said UBS oil analyst Giovanni

Staanovo.

Investors were surprised that Saudi Arabia had decided to maintain its voluntary cut of 1 million bpd through April even after the oil price rally of the past two months on the back of COVID-19 vaccination programmes around the globe.

"An array of factors coalesced to bring the parties together, but the resultant price increase will almost certainly push the parties to change their minds when they meet again on April 1,"

Citigroup said in a note.

Analysts are reviewing their price forecasts to reflect the continued supply restraint by OPEC+ as well as U.S. shale producers, who are holding back spending to boost returns to investors.

Goldman Sachs raised its Brent crude price forecast by \$5 to \$75 a barrel in the second quarter and \$80 a barrel in the third quarter of this year. UBS raised its Brent forecast to \$75 a barrel and WTI to \$72 in the second half of 2021.



Wealth managers frustrated over bitcoin

NEW YORK

THE rollercoaster ride in bitcoin since the start of the year has not dampened wealth manager Jim Paulsen's enthusiasm for the cryptocurrency.

Yet Paulsen, chief investment officer for Leuthold Group, which manages \$1 billion, cannot own bitcoin in client portfolios due to regulatory constraints. This has left him on the sidelines watching the world's most popular cryptocurrency surge more than 900 percent since its March lows in volatile trading that also saw bitcoin lose more than 20 percent in the span of a few days.

"What I like about bitcoin is its correlation to stocks and other assets is extraordinarily independent," said Paulsen, who remains frustrated that he cannot own it for clients.

The promise of an asset class that behaves differently than stocks or bonds is leaving portfolio and wealth managers scrambling for their own cryptocurrencies if they can.

Many view bitcoin as a good inflation hedge. Nearly 20 percent of advisors are contemplating investing in cryptocurrencies this year due to concerns about inflation, up from 6.3 percent in 2019, according to a report from Citi.

Still, a number of advisors say they are

unable to own bitcoin for their clients until they can hold it in an exchange-traded fund or mutual fund that clears legal hurdles common for any investment.

Should that happen, institutional money could flow in and push the asset class higher, analysts said. BlackRock Inc, the world's largest asset manager, said on Jan. 21 it was adding bitcoin futures as eligible investments for certain funds. Fund experts expect other asset management firms to follow suit.

Yet the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission does not yet recognize cryptocurrencies as a security like a stock or a bond, and has not ruled whether mutual funds can own them directly, said Robert Jenkins, global head of research at Refinitiv Lipper. So it remains unclear whether any mutual funds currently own bitcoin because they are not required to disclose it, he said.

In the United States, eight firms have tried without success since 2013 to create a bitcoin ETF, according to Todd Rosenbluth, director of ETF and mutual fund research at New York based CFRA. The SEC did not respond to questions for this article.

Funds like the popular ARK Invest ETF line that have positions in bitcoin do it through shares of the Greyscale Bitcoin Trust, a publicly traded trust that holds a



Representation of the virtual currency Bitcoin is seen on a motherboard in this picture illustration. File Photo.

set number of bitcoin units and often trades at a premium to the value of its underlying portfolio.

Securities regulators in Canada approved the world's first bitcoin ETF on Feb. 12, leading some investors to hope that U.S. regulators will shortly follow.

President Joe Biden's nominee to head

the SEC, Gary Gensler, spoke in broad terms about cryptocurrencies in a confirmation hearing Tuesday, suggesting that the agency should provide more regulation on how it views the asset class. Some investors have taken his appointment as raising the likelihood that a bitcoin ETF will be approved for the U.S.

Gensler "seems more crypto-friendly than previous folks who had oversight," said Viraj Patel, head of asset allocation at Fiduciary Trust International, who has not yet made investments in the asset class for clients but is waiting for a U.S.-based ETF. "We're really looking at cryptocurrency through the lens of this could be gold 2.0," said Patel.

Still, Rosenbluth said he was skeptical of a product being approved this year, saying there would be a high bar to clear tied to market manipulation and custody audit.

Even in the absence of an ETF, retail interest "remains strong with no signs of abating," JP Morgan analysts wrote in a Feb 16 research note.

Overall, cryptocurrency funds and products that investors can buy direct brought in nearly \$5.6 billion in assets in 2020, up more than 600% from the year before, according to asset manager CoinShares. Cryptocurrency funds have gathered \$4.2 billion in flows for this year through March 1, CoinShares said.

"Not allowing the purchase of crypto is something that's frustrating to many advisors, but it's such a volatile asset that many investors end up doing it on their own," said Jimmy Lee, chief executive of the Wealth Consulting Group.

Bond fires smoulder as shares drop ahead of US jobs data

LONDON

IT WAS a frantic Friday for traders as another push higher in bond-market borrowing costs and the dollar sank stocks and oil prices jumped after OPEC and its allies opted against increasing supply for the time being.

Nervy European shares started 0.7 percent lower [EU], Asia had dropped. Wall Street's S&P 500 had briefly gone negative for the year on Thursday [N] and MSCI's all-country index was on its longest losing streak in six months. It had come after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell had shown little alarm about the rise in yields on Thursday while the lively oil markets and monthly U.S. jobs data due later meant another busy day was in store.

"Markets were a little disappointed about what Chair Powell said yesterday," said Henrietta Pacquement, head of investment-grade fixed income at Wells Fargo Asset Management, referring to hopes he would push back harder again rising yields.

If the U.S. data later comes in strong, it will add "fuel to the fire" she said, although central banks like the Fed and the European Central Bank, which is dealing with a more sluggish euro zone, do have the ammo to fight back if yields really started to rocket.

"Perhaps the U.S. is in the best position to take higher rates, but it will be more difficult for Europe and also EM (emerging markets)," Pacquement said.

Germany's benchmark 10-year bond yield was up 2 basis points at -0.29 percent, holding just below the near one-year highs hit last week as bond market pressures intensified.

Benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury yields rose 6 bps in the half hour that Powell spoke overnight. They finished the U.S. session 8 bps higher at 1.564%, the highest closing level since mid February last year.

Real yields, which take off the rate of inflation, rose 13 bps from

their intra-day lows. Yield curves resumed their steepening. The gap between two-year and 10-year U.S. yields was 8 bps wider at 142 bps, the widest since November 2015.

"The move in the (U.S.) 10 year was driven by real yields (+9.5bps) as opposed to inflation expectations (-1.3bps) which is not good for risk," Deutsche Bank's Jim Reid said.

Futures for S&P 500 were down 0.5%. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite tumbled 2.1% on Thursday, taking it down about 10 percent from its record close on Feb. 12 and putting it in what is known in dealing rooms as "correction" territory. [N]

Even though Powell made it clear that the Fed was not close to changing its ultra-loose monetary policy stance anytime soon, analysts still worry rising Treasury yields could herald higher borrowing costs, thereby limiting the fragile U.S. economic recovery.

Focus was already turning to the release of the U.S. non-farm payrolls for February, with the market eyeing a recovery in employment growth and a steady unemployment rate at 6.3 percent.

"We suspect the market will be inclined to look through a weaker number, with investors looking ahead to the big fiscal stimulus planned in the U.S.," said Ray Attrill, head of forex strategy at National Australia Bank.

Commodity markets were doing their bit for volatility. Oil prices added to big gains after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies agreed to mostly maintain their supply cuts in April as they await a more solid recovery in demand from the COVID-19 pandemic. [O/R]

Brent crude futures for May rose as high as \$68.25 a barrel on Friday, a level not seen since Jan. 8, 2020. The contract was up \$1.53, or 2.2 percent, at 0930 GMT and on track for a 3 percent gain this week.



The German share price index DAX graph is pictured at the stock exchange in Frankfurt, Germany. File Photo.

ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV	MONDAY 08 March	TUESDAY 09 March	WEDNESDAY 10 March	THURSDAY 11 March	FRIDAY 12 March	SATURDAY 13 March	SUNDAY 14 March
<p>SATURDAY 06 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:00 Shika Bamba 5</p> <p>10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt</p> <p>11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>12:15 Korean drama rpt: Jumong</p> <p>13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe</p> <p>16:20 Igizo: Mtego</p> <p>17:00 Shamsham za Pwani</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Korean drama: Jumong</p> <p>19:00 Jungu Kuu</p> <p>19:30 Shika Bamba</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Art and lifestyle</p> <p>21:30 ITV TOP 10</p> <p>22:10 Isidingo rpt</p> <p>00:30 DWTV</p> <p>SUNDAY 07 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>09:00 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>10:00 Isidingo rpt</p> <p>11:30 Movie: Uyoga rpt</p> <p>14:00 Tamasha la michezo</p> <p>15:30 Mwangaza</p> <p>16:30 ITV Top 10</p> <p>17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Matukio ya wiki</p> <p>19:30 Igizo: Mtego</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology</p> <p>21:15 Mizengwe</p> <p>21:30 Mjue Zaidi</p> <p>22:15 Bongo Movie: Hukumu ya Ndoa Yangu</p> <p>00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>MONDAY 08 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidingo</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Watoto wetu rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera News</p> <p>12:30 Mtego rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Mjue Zaidi</p> <p>13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p>	<p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:10 Aibu yako rpt</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:45 Kesho leo</p> <p>19:00 Afya ya Jamii</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Dakika 45</p> <p>22:00 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p> <p>TUESDAY 09 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidingo</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu rpt</p> <p>10:30 Jungu kuu rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 The Base rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Afya ya jamii</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 DWT: Kesho leo rpt</p> <p>13:30 Shika Bamba rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:10 Yu wapi</p> <p>18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt</p> <p>18:30 Uchumi na biashara</p> <p>19:00 Jarida la wanawake</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology</p> <p>21:10 Ripoti Maalum: Mafuriko D'Salaam</p> <p>21:40 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>22:30 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>23:45 The Base</p> <p>00:45 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 10 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidingo</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt</p> <p>10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 The Base rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p>	<p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Korean drama rpt: Jumong</p> <p>19:00 Ijue Sheria</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco</p> <p>21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p> <p>THURSDAY 11 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidingo</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>10:30 Watoto</p> <p>10:55 Shamba lulu rpt</p> <p>11:00 Shamsham za Pwani</p> <p>11:00 The Base rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Ijue sheria rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Ripoti Maalum: Mafuriko D'Salaam</p> <p>13:30 Kipindi Maalum:</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi rpt</p> <p>18:30 Jagina</p> <p>19:00 Usafiri wako</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Malumbano ya hoja</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p>	<p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base (DJ Show)</p> <p>17:30 Kiislam</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt</p> <p>19:00 Shamba lulu</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipima Joto</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p> <p>SATURDAY 13 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:00 Shika Bamba 5</p> <p>10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt</p> <p>11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>12:15 Korean drama rpt: Jumong</p> <p>13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe</p> <p>16:20 Igizo: Mtego</p> <p>17:00 Shamsham za Pwani</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Korean drama: Jumong</p> <p>19:00 Jungu Kuu</p> <p>19:30 Shika Bamba</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Art and lifestyle</p> <p>21:30 ITV TOP 10</p> <p>22:10 Isidingo rpt</p> <p>00:30 DWTV</p> <p>SUNDAY 14 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>09:00 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>10:00 Isidingo</p> <p>11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt</p> <p>12:00 Movie rpt: Hukumu ya Ndoa Yangu</p> <p>14:00 Tamasha la Michezo</p> <p>15:30 Mwangaza</p> <p>16:30 ITV Top 10</p> <p>17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Matukio ya wiki</p> <p>19:30 Igizo: Mtego</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology</p> <p>21:15 Mizengwe</p> <p>21:30 Mjue Zaidi</p> <p>22:45 Bongo Movie: Scola</p> <p>00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p>	<p>11:30 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt</p> <p>12:30 Eco@Africa rpt</p> <p>13:00 Business edition rpt</p> <p>13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter</p> <p>14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt</p> <p>17:45 Bundesliga kick off</p> <p>18:15 Capchat rpt</p> <p>19:15 Mizengwe</p> <p>19:30 The Decor</p> <p>20:00 Korean Drama: Iris</p> <p>21:00 Out n' About</p> <p>21:30 Movie: Smoke Jumpers (tape no:5335)</p> <p>23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love</p> <p>01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sun 07 March</p> <p>08:00 Aljazeera</p> <p>09:00 In good shape</p> <p>10:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>11:00 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter</p> <p>12:00 Jagina rpt</p> <p>12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt</p> <p>13:00 In good shape rpt</p> <p>13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love</p> <p>15:15 Aibu yako</p> <p>15:30 Rev rpt</p> <p>16:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>16:45 Mizengwe rpt</p> <p>17:00 The Decor rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt</p> <p>19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights</p> <p>20:00 Korean Drama: Iris</p> <p>21:00 Shift</p> <p>21:15 Capchat live</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Mon 08 March</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love</p> <p>16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt</p> <p>17:00 Eco@Africa rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 The Décor rpt</p> <p>19:30 Shamba lulu</p> <p>20:00 Series: Beats of Love</p> <p>20:45 The Monday Agenda</p> <p>21:30 Capital Prime News</p> <p>22:00 Kipima Joto</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Tues 09 March</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love</p> <p>16:30 Capchat rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Innovation</p> <p>19:30 Jagina rpt</p> <p>20:00 Series: Beats of Love</p>			

CAPITAL

Sat 06 March

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt
09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt
11:00	Out n'about rpt

WORLD

Pope Francis arrives in Baghdad for risky and historic Iraq tour

BAGHDAD

POPE Francis landed in Baghdad yesterday for his most risky foreign trip since his election in 2012, saying he felt duty-bound to make the "emblematic" visit because Iraq had suffered so much for so long.

An Alitalia plane carrying him, his entourage, a security detail, and about 75 journalists, touched down at Baghdad International Airport slightly ahead of schedule just before 2 p.m. local time.

Iraq is deploying thousands of additional security personnel to protect the 84-year-old pope during the visit, which comes after a spate of rocket and suicide bomb attacks raised fears for his safety.

"I am happy to be making trips again," he said in brief comments to reporters aboard his plane, alluding to the coronavirus pandemic which has prevented him from travelling. The Iraq trip is his first outside Italy since November 2019.

"This is an emblematic trip and it

is a duty towards a land that has been martyred for so many years," Francis said, before donning a mask and greeting each reporter individually, without shaking hands.

Francis's whirlwind tour will take him by plane, helicopter and possibly armoured car to four cities, including areas that most foreign dignitaries are unable to reach, let alone in such a short space of time.

He will say Mass at a Baghdad church, meet Iraq's top Shi'ite Muslim cleric in the southern city of Najaf and travel north to Mosul, where the army had to empty the streets for security reasons last year for a visit by Iraq's prime minister.

Mosul is a former Islamic State stronghold, and churches and other buildings there still bear the scars of conflict.

VIOLENCE AND HOPE

Since the defeat of the Islamic State militants in 2017, Iraq has seen a greater



Pope Francis boards a plane as he departs to Iraq yesterday at Rome's Fiumicino airport. (AFP)

degree of security, though violence persists, often in the form of rocket attacks by Iran-aligned militias on U.S. targets, and U.S. military action in response.

On Wednesday 10 rockets landed on an airbase that hosts U.S., coalition and Iraqi forces. Hours later, Francis reaffirmed he would travel to Iraq.

Islamic State also remains a threat. In January, a suicide attack claimed by the Sunni militant group killed 32 people in Baghdad's deadliest such attack for years.

Francis will meet clergy at a Baghdad church where Islamist gunmen killed more than 50 worshippers in 2010. Violence against Iraq's minority religious groups, especially when a third of the country was being run by Islamic State, has reduced its ancient Christian community to a fifth of its once 1.5 million people.

The pontiff will also visit Ur, birthplace of the prophet Abraham, who is revered by Christians, Muslims and Jews, and meet Iraq's revered top Shi'ite Muslim cleric, 90-year-old Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

The meeting with Sistani, who wields great influence over Iraq's Shi'ite majority and in the country's politics, will be the first by a pope.

Some Shi'ite militant groups have opposed the pope's visit, framing it as Western interference in Iraq's affairs, but many Iraqis hope that it can help foster a fresh view of Iraq.

"It might not change much on the ground, but at least if the pope visits, people will see our country in a different light, not just bombs and war," said Ali Hassan, a 30-year-old Baghdad resident picking up relatives at the airport.

Agencies

China's key political season kicks off, pooling strength for modernisation drive

BEIJING

CHINA'S top political advisory body started its annual session Thursday in Beijing, kicking off the country's major political season of the year that will pool the strength for fully building a modern socialist country.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders attended the opening meeting of the session at the Great Hall of the People.

"This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC), as well as the starting point on a new journey to fully building a modern socialist China," Wang Yang, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), told a gathering of more than 2,000 political advisors.

Wang called on political advisors to devote their wisdom and strength to the construction of a modern socialist country.

The National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, will begin its annual session on Friday. The dual meetings, also known as the "two sessions," will set the general national agenda for the whole year and beyond.

Premier Li Keqiang is expected to deliver a government work report, which will be closely watched as China has emerged among the first countries to effectively contain the COVID-19 pandemic, reopen the economy safely, and restore economic growth. The country's development goals and plan for 2021 are expected to be unveiled in the report.

China's GDP grew 2.3 percent year on year to hit 101.6 trillion yuan (about 15.7 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2020.

Zhang Liqun, a research fellow with the Development Research Center of the State Council, said China's economy is resilient, has potential and will maintain sustained growth in 2021.

Zhang, however, noted that the primary goal of economic development is not to seek a nice-looking GDP figure but to raise the quality of the growth and ensure people's well-being.

This year's two sessions are expected to garner more attention from home and abroad as lawmakers will deliberate a blueprint for China's development in the next five to 15 years - the draft outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and the long-range objectives through the year 2035.

"This year's two sessions do not just serve for the work in 2021, but also the goals and tasks set by the 14th Five-Year Plan. We must fulfill the great mission of our times," said Bai Chongren, a CPPCC National Committee member and dean of the School of Economics and Management at Tsinghua University.

The draft outline will be under the spotlight for its comprehensive and targeted measures echoing China's new development philosophy, said Xin Ming, a professor at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee (National Academy of Governance).

Topics including high-quality economic development, science innovation, rural vitalization and eco-protection will



Chinese President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders attend the opening meeting of the fourth session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday. (Xinhua)

also draw much attention, Xin said, adding that "dual circulation" development paradigm will be another highlight, in which domestic and overseas markets reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay.

The 14th Five-Year Plan will further clarify how China will implement the dual circulation strategy and achieve high-quality development, observers say, noting that unleashing domestic demand is crucial to driving China's growth, but this new development paradigm does not mean China will backpedal on its opening-up drive.

China's pursuit of self-reliance "is never to close its doors but to build a new development paradigm based on wider and higher-level opening-up," explained Wang Yiming, a member of the CPPCC National Committee.

During the past year, China

had actively cooperated with other countries and regions. It signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement in November and completed investment agreement negotiations with the European Union in December. "China's economy has been deeply integrated into the global economy. As China enters the new stage of development, its ties with the world economy will get even closer," said Ji Zhiye, former head of China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations who is also a member of the CPPCC National Committee. Ji said the international capitals are optimistic about the Chinese market thanks to the country's business environment and economic resilience.

The two sessions returning to its traditional March schedule is an embodiment of China's success in effectively con-

taining the COVID-19 epidemic. The arrangement reconfirms that China's political, economic and social life is returning to normal, injecting confidence into the world amid the fight against the virus.

Zhang Wenhong, head of the Center for Infectious Diseases at the Shanghai-based Huashan Hospital of Fudan University, said he is hopeful that China will not have any major COVID-19 resurgence this year thanks to its anti-epidemic experience and strong control measures.

Promoting vaccination across the country is the focus of the next stage of epidemic control, according to Zhang, who also heads Shanghai's COVID-19 clinical expert team. As of the end of February, more than 52 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered across China.

Xinhua

Russia ready to offer positive programme of cooperation to US

WASHINGTON

RUSSIA intends to present a more positive program of cooperation to the US to substitute the "two-track approach," Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov said Thursday speaking at the Cosmos Club, the envoy's remarks are quoted at the Russian embassy's Facebook page.

According to Antonov, since Joe Biden took office "the broad outline of the new administration's policy towards Russia is emerging." "In essence, it is the old two-track approach," the diplomat pointed out.

"It implies cooperation with us on the issues of American interest. At the same time the concept of deterring Russia will be used as much as possible."

The envoy underlined, "such approach is not the best option for the two permanent members of the UN Security Council that bear particular responsibility for international peace and security." "We will try to convince our colleagues to change their minds and will also propose a positive agenda of interaction," he added.

"As for the baseless and categorical allegations against Russia, we consistently propose to discuss any claims in a professional manner - on the basis of facts and analysis rather than on assumptions and emotions poured out to the public sphere," the Russian ambassador stressed.

According to him, Russia "stands for maintaining pragmatic, equal and good-neighboring bilateral relations." "We do not want to remake the U.S. and bring ideological differences to the interstate ties. We expect the same approach to us from the new administration," the envoy noted.

He also emphasized, "It is time to stop dividing countries into the right and the flawed, the good democratic and the bad authoritarian."

"The post-World War II world order based on the UN Charter was built by different states and stipulates the same rights for all countries, irrespective of their internal organization," Antonov recalled.

According to the diplomat, the intention to substitute international law "some 'rules-based order' determined in the Western capitals" will lead to deterioration of conflicts and loss of manageability of the international system.

Agencies

China hopes US will view bilateral ties in objective, rational manner

BEIJING

CHINA hopes that the United States will view China and China-U.S. relations in an objective and rational manner, adopt a pragmatic policy toward China, and make efforts to bring bilateral ties back on the right track, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Thursday.

Spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a press briefing in response to a question on U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent comments on China-U.S. relations. China has always been an architect of world peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of the international order, Wang said, adding that China's development is a growing force for world peace and an opportunity rather than a challenge to the world.

China has always safeguarded the international system with the United Nations at its core, and maintained the international order based on international law, rather than following an international order defined by individual countries to safeguard their own hegemony, Wang noted.

"In the era of globalization, forming cliques against specific countries based on ideology is unpopular and has no way out," the spokesperson said. "As China and the United States have different histories, cultures and systems, it is inevitable that the two countries will have differences on certain issues. But, the key to solving problems is mutual respect, fair treatment, and handling differences in a constructive manner," Wang added.

Dialogue is always better than friction, and cooperation is better than confrontation, Wang said, adding that history and reality show that as long as China and the United States respect each other and treat each other as equals, the two sides can always find ways to resolve and manage differences and achieve win-win results.

Wang reiterated that China is committed to developing bilateral relations with the United States featuring non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation, and at the same time China will continue to resolutely safeguard its national sovereignty, security and development interests.

It is hoped that the United States will view China and China-U.S. relations in an objective and rational manner, go with the trend of the times, abandon outdated zero-sum thinking, and adopt a rational and pragmatic policy toward China, Wang said. The spokesperson also expressed hope that the U.S. side will meet China halfway, focus on cooperation and manage differences, so as to bring China-U.S. relations back on the right track and better benefit the people of the two countries and the world at large.

Xinhua

China's import trade delivers increasing benefits to the country and world

By Wei Hao

IN recent years, China's import trade has continued to yield benefits as the country has made active efforts to expand imports, which epitomizes not only the country's concrete practice of constantly deepening reform and opening-up and improving people's living standards, but its practical actions to open the domestic market to the rest of the world.

Last year, when the COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll on global trade in a way rarely seen before, China became the first country in the world to resume work and production after bringing the epidemic

under control in a relatively short time through scientific and effective measures. Meanwhile, the country's imports recovered faster from the impact of the pandemic than that of other countries.

China imported 14.23 trillion yuan (about \$2.2 trillion) worth of goods in 2020. Despite the impacts of the COVID-19, the country's import trade in goods recorded a V-shaped rebound last year, demonstrating strong resilience.

China's huge domestic market has provided powerful support for expanding imports, said Li Kuiwen, spokesman of the General Administration of Customs (GAC) of China and director of the department of

statistics and analysis of the GAC.

China's advantage of a huge domestic market was particularly prominent under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and helped ensure stable demand for imports, Li added.

Import of consumer goods in China has improved the living standards of domestic consumers. In recent years, the country's food imports have witnessed continuous growth in terms of value, quantity, and categories of imported products, connecting huge consumption potential in the Chinese market with the real needs of consumers.

In 2020, the volumes of China's grain and meat imports increased

by 28 percent and 60.4 percent respectively.

China's imports have played an increasingly important role in driving the world economy. From 2001 to 2019, the country's goods imports expanded continuously at an average annual growth rate of 12.6 percent, while that of the world's imports stood at 6.3 percent during the same period.

Even in the eventful year of 2020, China's import trade outshone that of other countries.

According to monthly estimates of trade in goods of major economies released by the World Trade Organization (WTO), the share of China's imports in the global mar-

ket reached 11.5 percent in the first ten months of 2020, 0.7 percentage points higher than the country's historical peak, which made the country a strong support for the economic growth of various other countries.

As a matter of fact, China's domestic demand for imported products has not been fully unleashed. As Chinese people's income continues increasing and their consumption upgrading keeps gaining momentum, the country is expected to witness greater domestic demand for imported goods and a significant change in consumer preferences.

While there will be a growing demand for various high-end goods

and luxuries, the domestic market is also going to see a gradual increase in the demand for high-quality consumer goods and cost-effective branded products from overseas. It can be a precious opportunity for any foreign enterprise, especially large transnational enterprises.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made a profound impact on the global economy. It has plunged the global economy into the worst economic recession since the World War , said a report of the World Bank.

Against such a backdrop, the decision of foreign companies to actively expand exports to China bears more strategic significance than ever.

People's Daily

CGTN able to resume broadcasts in Europe

THE China Global Television Network, or CGTN, has the right to broadcast across Europe, French authorities have confirmed, despite a recent move by United Kingdom regulators to revoke the Chinese media company's license.

UK broadcast regulator Ofcom banned CGTN from British airwaves in February following a dispute over which entity has editorial control over the Beijing-based media organization.

But France's media watchdog the Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel, or CSA, confirmed on Wednesday that the CGTN channel falls under French jurisdiction because it has been broadcast in Europe via a French satellite operator since 2016.

French law gives non-European channels the right to broadcast if French satellites and uplinks are used.

Under a treaty set up by the Council of Europe, which has 47 members including the UK and France, a media organization is authorized to broadcast across the continent as long as it falls under the jurisdiction of one member state and adheres to local regulations.

The CSA said that non-European channels such as CGTN can be broadcast freely without prior verification, provided they continue to respect French television and radio laws.

In principle, this could mean that CGTN retains the right to broadcast in the UK, despite the Ofcom ruling.

Ofcom banned the Chinese company in early February after it concluded that Star China Media Limited, the license-holder for the CGTN service, did not have editorial responsibility for CGTN's output.

Ofcom cited UK law which stipulates that "licensees must have control over the licensed service", including editorial oversight over the programs they show.

"In addition, under these laws, license holders cannot be controlled by politbodies," Ofcom said in a statement.

CGTN said it had proposed transferring its television license, though Ofcom had refused to cooperate and seek a "constructive solution".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said that China "firmly opposed" the move by the UK regulator. "China urges the UK to immediately cease political manipulation and correct its mistakes," Wang said at a news briefing on Feb 5.

Agencies

Kremlin works out various scenarios in relation to possible new sanctions

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin takes into account a threat of new sanctions against Russia and works out various scenarios to protect interests of citizens and business, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists yesterday.

Earlier, Bloomberg, citing sources, reported that the US and the UK are considering the possibility to introduce additional sanctions against Russia, accusing it of using chemical weapons.

"Of course, Russia understands this, takes this into account, and works out various scenarios in order to ensure and protect interests of our country, our citizens and our business in the best way possible," the Kremlin representative said in response to a question whether Moscow has a plan of action if such restrictions are introduced.

Agencies

Australian defence minister apologises over rape victim comment

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds apologised yesterday to a former government staffer who alleges she was raped in Parliament House and demanded an apology after Reynolds called her a "lying cow."

Brittany Higgins, who in February went public with allegations that she was raped by a colleague in Reynolds' office in 2019, on Thursday threatened legal action over the minister's comments, which were made to staffers after Higgins went public, according to The Australian.

In a statement Higgins said that the language was "incredibly hurtful" and demanded that Reynolds publicly apologize or face possible legal action.

"I appreciate that it has been a stressful time but that sort of behaviour and language is never excusable. It's just further evidence of the toxic workplace culture that exists behind closed doors in Parliament House," Higgins said.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that the comments were "inappropriate and wrong."

"She deeply regrets it. They were offensive remarks. She should never have made them. I don't condone them," he told reporters on Thursday.

It comes as the government faces increasing scrutiny over the workplace culture in Parliament House.

Yesterday Reynolds (pictured) apologised to Higgins for the comments.

"In response to a letter from Ms Higgins' lawyers yesterday afternoon, discussions are now underway through our legal representatives in an effort to resolve this matter as soon as possible, with any resolution to include an apology," she said in a statement.

"However, in the meantime, I want to express how deeply sorry I am for these remarks and for any hurt and distress they have caused."

Xinhua



US mulls new curbs on guns after record sales

HOUSTON

A MAN and a woman were found shot dead in a vehicle in Louisville, Kentucky. A 29-year-old was shot at his residence in Dallas, Texas. A 25-year-old man was shot to death while on a sidewalk in Chicago.

They were among almost 50 people shot and killed in the US on the last day of 2020, according to Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit research group that catalogs every incident of gun violence in the United States.

At least 19,365 people died from gun violence in 2020, a more than 25 percent jump from the previous year. The number of mass shootings, categorized by the deaths of four or more people, jumped by about 50 percent in the same period.

The year also saw a boom in gun sales. The FBI said it processed a record 39.7 million firearms background checks in 2020, more than 10 million up over 2019, the most of any year since the agency started recording the data in 1998.

With gun-shooting deaths and sales of guns hitting a record in 2020, the Biden administration has been reaching out to gun-control advocates since mid-February.

The administration effort is led by Susan Rice, director of the Domestic Policy Council, and Cedric Richmond, director of the Office of Public Engagement.

Several meetings were held with prominent groups pushing for gun restrictions, community-based groups asking for billions of dollars in program funding, and survivors of gun violence.

Numerous groups and individuals have been pushing the government to act on gun control. A group of 12 Senate Democrats led by Dianne Feinstein of California



People line up to buy guns and ammunition at a store in Orem, Utah, United States, on Jan 10, 2020. Such sales have risen in the state since the Capitol Building was stormed in Washington on Jan 6. (AFP)

nia sent a letter to Biden urging him to nominate a permanent director to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or ATF, and empower that person to enact a raft of executive gun control measures.

Four big-city mayors, including Chicago's Lori Lightfoot and Los Angeles' Eric Garcetti, wrote a CNN opinion piece that called on Biden to "create a gun violence prevention task force to coordinate efforts across every corner of the administration and every city in the

country" and "sign a series of executive orders to begin the real work of addressing gun violence in our cities".

Executive action

Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut said he recommended the administration take executive action to close the so-called Charleston loophole that allows a gun to be transferred from licensed gun dealers before a completed background check.

But Biden aides were reluctant, Blu-

mental said.

The White House is expected to stick with campaign promises to support legislation rather than issuing an executive order to close the Charleston loophole. It is also considering measures designed to keep guns away from people believed to be a danger to themselves or others and to establish safety storage standards for firearms, said news portal politico.com. As vice-president during the Barack Obama presidency, Biden tried to push through legislation on expanded background checks after the 2012 shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, that killed 20 first-graders and six school employees.

The shooter, Adam Lanza, shot himself to death. The bill requiring expanded background checks failed in the Senate.

Agencies

Australia asks EU to review its AstraZeneca vaccine shipment block, Japan wary

CANBERRA/TOKYO/BRUSSELS

Australia has asked the European Commission to review its decision to block a shipment of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine and Japan is investigating the matter, as countries importing EU-made shots fear a potential impact on supplies.

The EU executive backed Italy's decision to block a shipment of 250,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Australia, several European officials said, in the first refusal of an export request since a mechanism to monitor vaccine flows was established in late January.

The move was a reaction to AstraZeneca's delays in delivering vaccines to the EU, as the company said it could supply about 40 million doses of the 90 million foreseen in the contract for the first quarter of this year.

One official said the Anglo-Swedish firm had initially asked Rome to ship even more doses to Australia, but then cut its request to 250,000 after a first refusal by Italy, where some of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccines are bottled.

"Australia has raised the issue with the European Commission through multiple channels, and in particular we have asked the European Commission to review this decision," Australian Health Minister Greg Hunt told reporters in Melbourne.

Hunt said Australia, which began its inoculation programme two weeks ago, had already received 300,000 doses of



AstraZeneca's vaccine, which would last until local production of the vaccine ramps up. He added the missing doses would not affect the rollout of Australia's inoculation programme.

When asked about the EU's export ban, Japan vaccine minister Taro Kono said: "We are asking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to thoroughly investigate. We want to work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to secure the vaccines bound for Japan."

AstraZeneca did not reply to a request for comment.

EXPORT CONTROLS

Apart from the decision to block the shipment to Australia, the EU has au-

thorised all requests for export since the scheme's Jan. 30 debut to March 1, which amounted to 174 requests for millions of shots to 29 countries, including Australia, Japan, Britain, the United Arab Emirates and Canada, an EU Commission spokeswoman said.

Almost all vaccines exported from the EU since the end of January are made by Pfizer and BioNTech, the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said last week, with much smaller amounts being exported by Moderna and AstraZeneca.

The EU set up the mechanism to monitor vaccine exports after drugmakers announced delays in their supplies to the 27-nation bloc. It is now planning to

extend the scheme until the end of June after it expires on March 31, EU officials told Reuters.

When asked about Italy's move, French Health Minister Olivier Veran said that Paris could do the same, although at the moment it produces no COVID-19 vaccines.

German Health Minister Jens Spahn said that drug manufacturers must honour vaccine supply contracts to Europe, but said Germany had not yet had any reason to stop shipments of shots produced domestically to other countries.

While seeking the European Commission's intervention, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he could understand reasons for Italy's objection.

"In Italy people are dying at the rate of 300 a day. And so I can certainly understand the high level of anxiety that would exist in Italy and in many countries across Europe," Morrison told reporters in Sydney.

Italy's move came just days after Prime Minister Mario Draghi, who took office last month, told fellow EU leaders that the bloc needed to speed up vaccinations and crack down on pharma companies that failed to deliver on promised supplies.

EU countries started inoculations at the end of December, but are moving at a far slower pace than many other nations, with officials blaming the slow progress in part on supply problems with key manufacturers.

Agencies

China's cross-border e-commerce maintains robust growth

CHINA'S cross-border e-commerce made new highs in 2020. According to customs statistics, the country's cross-border e-commerce import and export volume surged 31.1 percent to 1.69 trillion yuan (\$261 billion), and the total exports transacted on e-commerce platforms rose 40.1 percent to 1.12 trillion yuan.

"Our export volume through e-commerce channels reached 1.3 billion yuan last year, and is expected to hit 1.6 billion yuan in 2021," said an executive from a foreign trade company in east China's Zhejiang Province. The company joined cross-border e-commerce business in 2014, and started exporting commodities on cross-border e-commerce platforms four years later. It maintained a rapid annual growth of over 50 percent in recent years.

At present, as global consumers are resorting to online consumption, proactively or passively, cross-border e-commerce platforms rise as an important channel for consumers to purchase from.

Impacted by COVID-19, overseas consumers are seeing a surging demand for "made in China" products, including electronic products and daily necessities. According to customs statistics, China's export of products related to "stay-at-home" economy, such as laptops, grew 8.2 percent to 2.51 trillion yuan last year.

The number of international flights dropped sharply after the pandemic, which posed serious threats for cross-border e-commerce, for example, delivery turning slow, cost going up and rising exchanges and returns. In addition, customs



A forklift moves commodities to be exported to Europe at a cross-border e-commerce bonded warehouse of Chengdu Railway Bonded Logistics Center, southwest China's Sichuan Province, Nov. 11, 2020. (File photo)

clearance was also a huge barrier.

Under such circumstances, the Chinese government issued a series of favorable policies. Last year, China enhanced cooperation with e-commerce businesses from 22 countries along the Silk Road, and the State Council approved the establishment of 46 integrated pilot zones for cross-border e-commerce, expanding the total number to 105.

Besides, the country also added "9710" and "9810" trade methods, which refer to either direct export of goods from domestic businesses to overseas businesses

by cross-border logistics based on their mutual deals over a cross-border e-commerce platform, or the export of goods by a domestic company to its overseas warehouse, from which the goods will be delivered to overseas buyers based on their deals over a cross-border e-commerce platform.

Currently, favorable policies to facilitate multiple industrial chains, including cross-border payment, e-commerce platforms and logistics are being rolled out in many integrated pilot zones for cross-border e-commerce across China.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the digitalization of the foreign trade sector, and technological innovation is empowering export. For instance, online exhibitions, audio and video conferences, as well as smart translation, customs declaration, logistics and tax rebate services have been launched by Alibaba.com under Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba to bring closer buyers and sellers from different countries.

"We must ensure that we on one hand help businesses precisely grab orders, and on the other hand maintain smooth operation of international shipping, cross-border payment and other links," said Zhang Kuo, Alibaba.com's general manager.

The constant development of cross-border e-commerce is sending more and more Chinese commodities to overseas destinations and upgrading the demand of global consumers.

Amazon recently issued a report summarizing the development of China's cross-border e-commerce in the past year. It said the business is going towards the following five trends in China: more diverse locations and types of sellers, accelerated global deployment, enhanced awareness of branding, speeded innovation and upgraded responding capability.

China's cross-border e-commerce and sellers have turned from extensive development to intensive growth, said Cindy Tai, Head of Amazon Global Selling Asia. She said the sector is a pillar of China's foreign trade, and is growing into a new normal from a new business.

People's Daily



Soccer followers that were announced as winners of a game, conducted by Total Tanzania Ltd, pictured with a Television set they were presented with once they had placed correct bet on national soccer sides which progressed to the last four of 2021 Total African Nations Championship (CHAN), played in Cameroon. They are (L-R) Innocent Mchimo, Amani Ephraim and Godbless Mboya. Total Tanzania Ltd's Managing Director, Jeanfrancois Schoepp, presented the presents to five winners. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

CAF opens bid for Women Champions League

By correspondents Ismail Tano & Nassir Nchimbi

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has opened a bid to host the women's African Champions League for the first time this year.

The tournament will feature a total of seven women soccer outfits that will qualify from each of the CAF football regions as well as a team from the country, which will host the tournament.

According to a statement issued by CAF, the African Women's Champions League will be held between October-December according to the final decision of the federation's executive committee.

"CAF has opened a tender for countries to host the 2021 African Women Champions League," the continental football body stated.

Parties are required to submit their tender applications accompanied by

stadiums (two required) and training grounds (at least four training grounds), accommodation (sufficient for eight teams) and assurance from the government.

"The closing date for applications is March 31, 2021," the CAF statement said.

This will be the first time an African Women's Champions League takes place with the aim of promoting women's football in Africa.

The launch of the tournament could be a great opportunity for Tanzania which has for five years now had a Women's Premier League.

Before yesterday's clash between Yanga Princesses and Simba Queens in the Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League, the top flight was led by Yanga Princess with 38 points.

Simba Queens were placed second with 35 points while JKT Queens were placed third with 33 points.

Simba SC set to feature in tricky CAF Champions League fixture-coach

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S Simba SC has disclosed it expects opponents, Sudan's Al Merreikh, will be out to overcome the former in the CAF Champions League's match, slated to take place in Khartoum today.

Simba SC holds the top spot in Group A of the showpiece after collecting six points with victory over DR Congo's AS Vita Club and the showpiece's defending champions, Al Ahly of Egypt.

Selemani Matola, Simba's assistant coach, said that their impressive start to the competition is one of reasons making the game against Al Merreikh quite tricky.

He noted: "We are facing opponents who have nothing to lose as they have just lost both of their first two matches."

He said: "They are not under the kind of pressure we are experiencing,

given we have six points and are in need of victory."

"Let us also remember that Al Merreikh are aware that our head coach Didier Gomes was in their squad and decided to leave on his own so it will put a lot of pressure on them to want to win."

"They need to revenge for their coach's decision to leave them because they needed him but he left them and headed to Simba, many think that it will be an easy task, there is no such thing."

"All in all we have organized ourselves to see to it that we are getting positive results as we are aware the showpiece is extremely competitive."

"Our fans should continue to pray for us," he said.

Gomes was roped in by Simba to replace Belgian Sven Vandebroek who parted ways with the side in early January and he is now in Morocco.

Haki Marathon now suspended

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has suspended the race, known as 'Haki Marathon', which was scheduled to take place in Dar es Salaam on March 6 this year, as part of the Women Day celebration.

In a statement circulated to the media in Dar es Salaam on Thursday and signed by the LHRC Executive Director, Anna Henga, the centre stated it decided to suspend the marathon after receiving a letter from the Police in Kinondoni prohibiting the hosting of the race for what was termed as expressed as security reasons.

"I would like to inform all human rights' stakeholders that the event has been postponed until further notice," the statement said.

Anna assured all participants registered for the Haki Marathon they will be refunded their registration fees.

On February 5, this year, LHRC announced to organise the 'Haki Marathon', with a view to increasing awareness on the importance of protecting human rights.

She said the marathon had three categories, the first was set to see the participants feature in 21km event, the second category was expected to involve 10km runners and the third was set to bring together 5km participants.

"In order to strengthen unity



Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC)'s Executive Director, Anna Henga.

and solidarity among human rights stakeholders, LHRC through the 'Haki Marathon', brings together participants from private, public sector, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and human rights clubs across the country," Anna disclosed.

"Therefore, it is our hope that event will play a big role of reminding the society on the importance of uniting to

have rights and equal community," she said.

The executive director pointed out that according to the human rights report 2019 released by LHRC last year, women harassment had increased, an issue that needed a solution.

Furthermore, the report revealed that in a period between January and June 2019, a total of 3709 cases related to women and children's raping were reported in different police stations across the country.

The 2019 human rights report, among others, recommended to the government, through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, to spearhead the enactment of the law on rights and protection to complement the National Age policy.

It further recommended to the CSOs and Social Welfare departments within local governments to increase awareness on violence against women and children and encourage community members to report the incidents to relevant authorities so that the perpetrators can be brought to justice.

The report further revealed recommendations to the community members to perform their duties of protecting and safeguarding children's rights and refraining from conducting acts of abuse to children.

Dar dance music artiste forms new band

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

FAMOUS Tanzanian musician, Mwinjuma Muumin, has formed a new dance music band, known as 'Special Band', which has already composed a track, known as 'Fenesi'.

Muumin revealed in Dar es Salaam on Thursday the track gears towards making the troupe's presence known to domestic music lovers.

The veteran musician said the troupe will complete its first album prior to June this year and the troupe will later begin staging shows.

"Apart from the track 'Fenesi', we have completed other songs, 'Yatima Mzee' and 'Mwanangu'," Muumin noted.

He mentioned: "We are expected to record several other songs, they are, among others, 'Kwa Mpangarange Sihami', 'Vumbi la Congo' and 'Jibwa la Kizungu'."

According to the musician, he and fellow troupe members have



Dance music artiste, Mwinjuma Muumin (C), speaks to reporters in Dar es Salaam mid this week on the formation of his new troupe, 'Special Band'. He has been flanked by the troupe's artistes, vocalist Salma Mjukuu (R), and soloist, Rashid Sumuni. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

targeted to record two tracks every month in an effort to see to it the troupe has a lot of tracks as it prepares to begin staging shows.

He stated Special Band is keeping on roping in artistes with a view to having a complete list of musicians before June.

He pointed out he believes the troupe will be a force to reckon with in dance music in the country.

He was adamant after working for several troupes, he is now sure he will be contented with putting his talent to use with the troupe.

Muumin mentioned some of artistes forming Special Band as veteran soloist, Rashid Sumuni, female vocalist, Salma Mjukuu, and several others that have yet to rise to prominence in the industry.

He stated the troupe uses a style known as

'Tamtam' and it will be based at Ikweta Grill hall, located at Mtoni kwa Aziz Ally in Dar es Salaam.

He disclosed the troupe's artistes regularly meet at the hall to set up strategies for seeing to it the troupe achieves success.

33 years later, Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall return to Zamunda

NEW YORK

WHEN Eddie Murphy made the original "Coming to America," he was, almost indisputably, the funniest man in America.

Murphy was at the very height of his fame, coming off "Beverly Hills Cop II" and the stand-up special "Raw." They were heady times. Arsenio Hall, Murphy's longtime friend and co-star in "Coming to America," remembers them sneaking out during the shoot to a Hollywood nightclub while still dressed as Prince Akeem and his loyal aide Semmi. "We were insane," says Hall.

The '80s, Murphy says, are "all a blur."

"I was so young, all this stuff was happening. You take everything for granted when you're young, how successful I was," Murphy says, speaking by Zoom with a shelf of award statuettes behind him. "Now I take nothing for granted and appreciate every-

thing."

Thirty-three years after "Coming to America," Murphy and Hall have returned to Zamunda. The sequel, originally planned to hit theaters last year, was sold due to the pandemic by Paramount Pictures to Amazon, where it will begin streaming Friday.

It's an unlikely coda to a blockbuster comedy, one that belongs so completely to the late '80s that even the sequel tries to keep some of that era's spirit. (A few notable R&B and hip-hop groups make cameos.) "Coming 2 America," directed by Craig Brewer, reverses the fish-out-water plot to bring Queens to Zamunda after Akeem learns he fathered a son (Jermaine Fowler) on his first visit to New York.

Some elements have been updated. There's a plot of female empowerment; Kiki Layne plays Akeem's daughter. At the barber-shop, where Murphy and Hall also reprise their characters, the con-

versation bounces from Teslas to transgender people.

"We had a draft where they had on MAGA hats and they were Republicans," says Murphy. "It was funny but it was like, eh, let's not even go there."

Instead, Murphy and his collaborators – including writers Barry W. Blaustein, David Sheffield and Kenya Barris – felt the core appeal of "Coming to America" lies in its fairy tale premise.

"This is the only movie I've ever done that had a cult following," says Murphy. "We had totally forgot about 'Coming to America.' Then this movie took on this life in the culture. It became like a cult movie. Lines from the movie became catchphrases. People do the mic drop now. The very first mic drop is Randy Watson from 'Coming to America.'"

"Coming to America" has indeed played a unique role in culture since 1988. Real-life McDowell's fast-food restaurants – the

McDonald's knockoff from the movie – have briefly popped up in Los Angeles and Chicago. Beyoncé and Jay-Z once dressed up as characters from the film for Halloween.

But the John Landis-directed movie was also a massive success on release. It was the second-highest grossing film domestically in 1988 with \$128.2 million in tickets sold – nearly double what "Die Hard" made that year. Globally, it grossed \$288.8 million, or more than \$630 million adjusted for inflation.

To Murphy, that's the movie's legacy.

"Coming to America" is the first movie in the history of the movies that had an all-Black cast that traveled all around the world," says Murphy. "They don't give a s--- about Selma and Martin Luther King and civil injustice, whatever our story is in America. They don't give a s--- about that around the world."

"It's not about being Black. It's about love and family and tradition and doing the right thing," Murphy adds. "If 'Black Panther' was about the hood, people wouldn't have seen 'Black Panther' all around the world."

The connections between "Coming to America" and "Black Panther" – both rare depictions of Black royalty and a mythic Africa – are many. Before making "Black Panther," Murphy has said Ryan Coogler approached him about a "Coming to America" sequel. During production on "Black Panther," Lupita Nyong'o (once not a fan of "Coming to America" for its clichéd depiction of Africans) and other cast members threw a "Coming to America" birthday party. Ruth E. Carter designed the costumes of both "Black Panther" and "Coming 2 America." Both were shot in Atlanta.

"I've had people say, 'Now Zamunda isn't a real place, right?'" says Brewer. "And I say, 'No, it's

definitely a real place. I believe it's just northeast of Wakanda."

The script for "Coming 2 America" was worked on for four years but shooting started quickly. Murphy first suggested Brewer direct "Coming 2 America" during a dinner with John Singleton after a test screening of "My Name Is Dolemite," the Rudy Ray Moore biopic that helped spur a revival for the 59-year-old Murphy.

"'Coming to America' was one of my favorite movies as a teenager," says Brewer, speaking from his home in Memphis, Tenn. "I couldn't help but just say 'Yes!' immediately. Then it became clear to me that this is going to go, like, now."

"Coming 2 America" also rekindles the great comedic chemistry between Murphy and Hall. Murphy estimates the close friends have seen each other two or three times a week for 40 years. But they went decades before talking about a sequel.

Barcelona's presidential election Q&A: Messi's future, who's running, big signings

BARCELONA

It's no secret that Barcelona are in desperate need of renovation on and off the pitch. It was evident in the 4-1 Champions League defeat to Paris Saint-Germain this month, just as it was in the 8-2 humiliation against Bayern Munich last August, that they can no longer compete with Europe's best sides. For that reason, Lionel Messi wanted out last summer and, for that reason, he could walk away for free when his contract expires on June 30.

The club's accounts don't read any better than the scorelines in those defeats. Gross debt, accelerating due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, has risen to €1.2 billion, with players forced to accept pay deferrals. Sources have told ESPN that reports of bankruptcy are premature, pointing out the club still has a lot of assets, including stadiums, facilities and players, but the situation is bleaker than at any other top European club.

After a first trophy-less campaign in over a decade, Messi tried to leave the club last year because of dwindling performances and lies told to him by the former board. Barca are a shadow of the side that won the Champions League under Pep Guardiola in 2009 and 2011 or under Luis Enrique in 2015 and Messi, 34 in June, wants the final years of his career to be successful.

Leadership is desperately needed. Barca have been rudderless since October when Josep Maria Bartomeu stepped down before he could face a vote of no confidence from the club's members. By the time a new president is finally elected on March 7, 131 days will have passed since Bartomeu's resignation. Club statutes state an election should have been called within 90 days, but coronavirus restrictions in Catalonia meant they had to be pushed back from the original date of Jan. 24.

Meanwhile, with each passing day, the number of issues the incoming president will have to deal with are mounting.

One of the first tasks is not an easy one: convincing Messi to stay. Even if they manage that, though, with Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City pushing to sign him, at some point during their six-year tenure they will have to oversee the most painful playing transition of the modern era. What -- or who -- comes next?

A spiralling wage bill also needs to be brought back under control, the debt needs to be restructured and a decision is also hanging over Camp Nou. Acting president Carles Tusquets has said the 100,000-seater stadium is "literally" falling down. An €815m renovation project, financed by Goldman Sachs, is currently on hold.

Despite that panoramic, nine club members, all men, declared their intent to run for the presidency. Three of them -- Joan Laporta, Victor Font and Toni Freixa -- gathered enough sig-

natures from their fellow members (2,257) to make it to polling day. One of them will take over at a crucial moment in the club's history.

So, who is trying to get the job?

Laporta, 58, is the favourite according to polls. He is a lawyer by trade, but he is best known for his previous spell as the club's president between 2003 and 2010. He was elected on the promise of signing David Beckham, although he ended up with Ronaldinho instead, and oversaw Barca's rise to winning six trophies in one calendar year under Pep Guardiola in 2009.

He's not the fresh-faced candidate brimming with enthusiasm who was elected 18 years ago, but his campaign evokes nostalgia for the most successful period in the club's history. Stunts like unveiling a banner of himself with the caption 'Looking forward to seeing you again' outside Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu have gone down well during the election campaign, although rival Font says he doesn't actually have a plan in place.

Font, 48, is Laporta's biggest threat. He cannot be accused of not having a plan if he's elected. The media and telecoms entrepreneur has been working on his project, which is closely linked to Xavi Hernandez but doesn't have the Al-Sadd coach's official support, for over five years. The project includes a wide range of people from diverse backgrounds, including a backroom role for Toni Nadal, tennis star Rafael Nadal's uncle.

Former board member Freixa, 52, is the outsider. He ran unsuccessfully in 2015 having held several roles at the club previously. A lawyer, like Laporta, he did legal work for Barca between 2003 and 2005 and took a place on the board in 2010 when Sandro Rosell was elected as president.

All three sat down with ESPN to discuss the topics that will shape the election. (Editor's Note: the interviews were conducted prior to the police raids of Barcelona offices and the arrest of former president Josep Maria Bartomeu.)

Can they convince Messi to stay?

Messi is out of contract on June 30. Since Jan. 1, he's been free to negotiate a pre-contract agreement with other clubs. If any of the candidates could guarantee he would stay under them, they would be halfway to victory in the election. Messi has said he will decide on his future in the summer.

It was recently revealed that the Argentine's current contract with the club is worth as much as €555m over four years. Therefore, the argument could be made that letting him leave would help relieve the stress on the club's finances. However, due to his importance on the pitch and the revenue he helps create, none of the candidates have pushed



Joan Laporta (left), Victor Font (middle) and Toni Freixa (right) are the candidates vying to be the next president of FC Barcelona. Whoever wins faces an uphill battle. (Agencies)

that argument. Laporta has even said Messi's responsible for 30 percent of the club's income.

"I don't see Messi in a shirt that isn't Barca's," Laporta told ESPN. "The story between him and the club is so beautiful that the incoming president is obliged to make sure it continues. I don't see him playing for any other club. I see him in the Barca shirt."

"Along with turning around the club's financial situation, the priority is to make a proposal to Lionel that convinces him to stay. I hope I arrive in time. And I have an advantage: Messi's trust. He knows the offer I make will be real and I will fulfil it. I think that will help a lot and is an advantage over the other candidates."

While Laporta hopes his personal relationship with the Messi family will lead to a contract extension, Font will use Xavi as a bridge, although he also admits Barca cannot continue paying Messi at the current rate.

"I'm convinced that with a competitive, exciting and, especially in Messi's case, long-term project -- one that could even go beyond the day that Messi retires -- we will convince him to stay," Font explained to ESPN.

"[Xavi] is one of the most important parts of the sporting project we have designed. The fact Messi and Xavi know each other [is good]. Xavi is someone Messi trusts. I know Messi would welcome the leadership Xavi can bring."

"Above all else, Messi is a person that loves Barca and what he wants is to win. Of course, the best player in the world and the best of all time must be compensated competitively. [His salary] is one of the realities that must be adjusted. But I think his priorities are competing and winning."

Throughout the campaign trail, Freixa has been less willing to speak about Messi. He says he wants him to stay but will not put any pressure on him to do so.

"We have to put Barca first," he told ESPN. "I hope Messi retires at the club, that's our desire, but I think we have to leave Messi in peace and not use his name so much in the campaign. It's not in any of the candidates' hands to say what will happen with Leo. I think he's waiting for the election before making a decision."

Are they promising any big-name signings?

Elections at Camp Nou usually feature pledges to sign some of the game's biggest players. That's not possible this time due to Barca's financial problems. Some of the candidates to fall by the wayside attempted to use Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland's names to champion support, but none of those who have made the cut have resorted to such tactics.

"I won't talk about players in concrete because it could destabilise the current playing staff," Laporta said. "But the contacts I have are already helping me a lot. I have always related to the football world. In terms of agents, I have a very good relationship with many of them. I have kept in contact with them. In that sense, I am open to any proposals they may have for me."

Font, though, has said it would be irresponsible to promise big-name signings.

"There aren't going to be any flashy, exciting signings in the current climate," he said. "Signing Neymar is not viable economically or institutionally. He is one of the top players in the world but Barca cannot commit to an operation to sign him or pay his wages. We must turn the page on Neymar."

"Exciting fans come from assuring them we're capable of bringing back the right talent to lead the club. We speak about Xavi, but there are many others, and we also have to back young players like Ansu Fati and Riqui Puig."

Regardless of the financial side of the deal, Freixa is completely against attempting to resign Neymar due to the way he left the club in 2017.

"Neymar is the past," Freixa added. "He didn't behave well with the club, filing lawsuits... And he's not been as good at PSG as expected. There are several reasons why he can't come back to Barca. For me, that door is completely closed."

On Feb. 22, Freixa was noted as saying he had a deal in place to sell 49% of Barca Corporate for 250 million euros and assured voters that some of that money would be used for new signings, noting it was "possible" to go for either PSG's Kylian Mbappe or Borussia Dortmund's new star, Er-

ling Haaland.

"[Possible transfer targets Kylian] Mbappe and [Erling] Haaland are great players. I wouldn't pick one or the other because it could be interpreted as having an interest in them. Others will have to decide [on signings] based on the fit for the team. In any case, we must be realistic, we can't lie to the supporters. If we must reduce the wage bill and cut spending, we can't talk about signings we can't afford right now."

"We've been working on an agreement for a while and have now closed one that will bring in €250 million for 49 percent of Barca Corporate. And for the 2021-22 season, [we will invest that money in] two difference-makers in attack and a great defender. The message is that Barca will have the competitive team that they have to have and that the supporters want. I'm talking in real terms, we will have the most competitive squad for next season."

Will they back Koeman as manager, or attempt to bring in Xavi?

Former player Koeman was only appointed in August and is likely to see out the season, but

a new president could decide a new coach is an additional way to win votes. With Barca on the brink of exiting the Champions League and lagging behind Atletico Madrid in La Liga, the Dutchman's position is far from secure. Waiting in the wings is Xavi, the former Barca midfielder who is currently the coach of Al-Sadd in Qatar.

"Koeman's a Barca great and for that reason alone he deserves time," Laporta stated. "Xavi is one of the best midfielders in the history of the club. He will be the Barca coach one day. I just don't know if it will be in the short, medium or long-term. I know him well and he lives for football, he knows all about football and he loves the game."

Font's campaign is built around Xavi. He says his project has been written in conjunction with Xavi and vowed to resign the following day if he's elected and the former Spain international doesn't accompany him, at first in a general manager role with Jordi Cruyff as sporting director.

"Xavi is one of the most important parts of the project we've designed for the coming years but to reduce that project to

a name or a coach would be an error," Font said. "The project starts with the board and involves having people in the apt positions for their skills."

"Right now, there's Koeman and [sporting director] Ramon Planes. There's no sporting vice president, the academy has nothing to do with the coach and it's all a mess. We must put the puzzle back together. From there, if Koeman is the right piece or not, that decision will be made by the sporting structure put in place."

"I like Koeman, he's a legend. At our house when I was younger, we had the commentary to Koeman's [European Cup winning] goal from 1992 on our answer machine! I like that he loves the club and took on the job in a difficult moment and has made brave decisions, betting on youngsters."

Freixa, meanwhile, has offered his full support to Koeman.

"Koeman is our coach," he said. "He has a contract and we must give him stability and confidence. Things have always gone well when we've backed coaches, look at Frank Rijkaard [who guided Barca to their second Champions League victory in 2006]. Koeman came in after the 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich at a difficult moment. He's had bad luck with injuries, too. But he's doing a good job and deserves our support."

"I have huge admiration for Xavi and what he's meant to this club. I am sure he will be Barca coach one day. He's in our thoughts and we respect him a lot, but we won't use his name."

Can they save the club from bankruptcy?

Barcelona announced losses of €97m for the 2019-20 season and confirmed that their total debt had doubled to €488m. Their annual report has since revealed that gross debt stands

at €1.2bn with millions owed to banks and clubs for players signed at inflated prices in recent seasons.

La Liga, meanwhile, reduced their salary cap for this season from €671m to €382.7m. Players agreed to wage cuts when the coronavirus pandemic first broke out last March and have agreed to wage deferrals for this season, but a lot of work still needs to be done to turn the situation around.

"The club is on the brink of bankruptcy," Laporta explained. "That is one of the reasons why I am running. I did the same in 2003 to turn around a delicate situation. The magnitude is much bigger this time, but the structure is the same."

"The situation is difficult but, despite everything, we're [the football club] that generates the most revenue [€855m last season despite the pandemic]. But we will have to find club members working in certain areas that can help us generate even more."

"The emergency plan we have is powerful, and I am sure it will work. The message is one of optimism. We can turn the situation around by reducing outgoings. We're studying the restructuring of the debt, too."

Font has offered a similar plan, saying he's hopeful the club won't have to sell their best players to survive even if some sales are necessary.

"In the short-term, the club's economic situation is a one out of 10," he said. "We're on the brink of bankruptcy. But Barca still has huge potential. We have an emergency plan to deal with the situation that includes refinancing the debt by negotiating with the banks, but later we have another plan to grow revenue, protect the ownership model and to remain competitive."

"I hope we don't have to sell our best players, but we will have to sell to restructure the squad and make it as competitive as possible."

Freixa blames the club's poor financial health on the coronavirus pandemic.

"Barca aren't ruined but they are in a critical situation due to the pandemic and poor management in recent years," he said. "You can blame whoever you want but it's clear the club's not been managed well and the pandemic has led us to an extremely delicate situation."

ESPN



Barcelona's presidential elections take place on Sunday. (Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Haki Marathon now suspended

PAGE 18

Serengeti Boys will excel in Africa U-17 Cup of Nations Championship-coach



Serengeti Boys' head coach, Hababuu Omari.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's national U-17 football team 'Serengeti Boys' head coach, Hababuu Omari, has said they are going to do well in the Africa U-17 Cup of Nations Championship which is expected to take place in Morocco later this month.

The Serengeti Boys squad has already left for Morocco for the tournament.

The tactician stated shortly

before the squad's departure: "Many Tanzanians are wrong to judge us for our senior and U-20 teams' results in the last two competitions, including the African Nations Championship in Cameroon and

the Africa U-20 Championships played in Mauritania."

He added: "We are well prepared to go and fight for the benefit of Tanzanians, thank God we have had enough time and we are going early to get used to the weather and play at least two matches before the championship but you should pray for us."

The Africa U-17 Cup of Nations Championship is expected to kick off on March 13 and climax on March 31.

Serengeti Boys have arrived in Morocco for a number of friendly matches ahead of the competition.

The Serengeti Boys left with a contingent made up of 22 players. They are three goalkeepers and 19 outfield players. The squad also consists of a technical bench.

The squad has been placed in Group B, which also consists of Algeria, Nigeria and Congo Republic.

The Tanzania youngsters will take part in their first match against Nigeria on March 14.

Serengeti Boys, later, will return to action on March 17 and finish the final group match against Congo Republic on March 20.

In the two matches against Nigeria and Algeria, Tanzania will play at El Bachir Stadium before concluding at Moulay Hassan Stadium against Congo Republic.

The championship's Group A is made up of hosts Morocco, Uganda, Zambia and Ivory Coast while Group C consists of Cameroon, Senegal, Mali and South Africa.

The semi-finalists will automatically qualify for the FIFA U-17

World Cup, which will take place in Peru later this year.

Players making Serengeti Boys are Shomari Mbwana Mnyamani, Said Naushad Said, Liptone Eliabi Mlugulwa, Abdulkarim Kassim Kiswanya, Abubakar Abdallah Sabiani, Omary Hassan Yahya, Abdurhaman Juma Kerry, Mohamed Saad Hussein, Kelvin Joel Komba, Omar Abas Mvungi and Omary Bakari Omary.

Abdallah Hamis Hassan, Sylvester Otto, Ahmed Khariid Chambera, Baraka Sylvester Nyamkindo, Kassim Ibrahim Yahya, Ismail Bombama, Hijjah Shamte Lidah, Ladaki Juma Chasambi, Kamli Jestu Masanja, Abdallah Mussa Libandika and Abubakar Ramadhan Lubotile also make the list.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SSPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

Tonight on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Karia faces stiff opposition in FIFA council polls

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia, must be prepared for a tough competition next week, when the international football governing body (FIFA) council goes to polls.

The polls will be held during the 43rd CAF elective general assembly in Morocco.

The TFF president will face five other contestants from the Anglophone (English) speaking African countries namely Nigerian Amaju Pinnick, Lamin Bajo from Gambia, Nick Mwendwa (Kenya) and Walter Nyamilandu (Malawi).

Football commentators say if Karia who is also Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) president, plays his cards well, he stands a chance of becoming the first Tanzanian in the FIFA council.

A football pundit Michael Msemakweli from Dar es Salaam said looking at Karia's contributions to local football and the CECAFA zone, he stands a chance to be elected FIFA council member.

"TFF president has demonstrated that he is a man that is passionate for the development of the game in the country and abroad, during his reign at TFF, we have organized football structures, and the country's national teams have competed in continental competitions, we are as well doing well at club level," he said.

He, however, acknowledged that there may be some challenges which occurred during Karia's reign, but said they cannot overshadow his success.

Msemakweli, however, said the main challenge for Karia is fellow CECAFA member, Mwendwa from Kenya, who is contesting for the same position.

"The only challenge Karia will face is Mwenda from Kenya, the CECAFA votes will be divided, but I am sure he has his winning strategy and knowing football politics in the region, our leader stands a chance," he said.

Yesterday, Karia could not be reached when The Guardian wanted to know his preparations for the elections and his plans once he is elected.



Kilimanjaro Aces cricket side's players in group photo prior to locking horns with Ngorongoro Titans in this year's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Reliance Insurance T20 Super League's last four clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam a week ago. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

TCA Reliance T20 Super League climaxes tomorrow

By Guardian Reporter

THIS year's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Reliance Insurance T20 Super League will climax tomorrow, with the final being played at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) oval.

Ngorongoro Titans have already booked a place in the final after commanding six-wicket victory over Kilimanjaro Aces in the first of the last four clashes, known as 'Qualifier 1', which took place last weekend.

The final will have Titans confronting winners of the second semi-final, which will take place the same day in the morning, in which Kilimanjaro Aces will face Tembo Warriors.

The Tembo Warriors had made it to the second of the last four stage fixtures after cruising to nine-wicket drubbing of Serengeti Giants in a knockout fixture, termed as 'Eliminator', which also took place a week ago.

An entertaining performance is set to be on show in the Serengeti Giants against Tembo Warriors' tie, given both outfits will be out to end the showpiece impressively.

Tembo Warriors, boasting of, among others, experienced cricketer, Issa Kikasi, and promising performer, Ivan Ismail, will certainly not be ready to easily crash out of the knockout stage, much as they were the showpiece's whipping boys in the round robin stage.

Kikasi and Ismail were instrumental in Tembo Warriors' successful quest for a place in the Eliminator, showcasing solid showing with the bat.

The Eliminator brought together outfits which ended third and fourth in the group stage.

The two players helped their side make a successful chase of the 106-run target set by Serengeti Giants, with Tembo Warriors amassing 110 runs for

the loss of one wicket in 13.5 overs.

Tembo Warriors had finished at the bottom of the four-team showpiece after completion of round robin stage without recording victory in three games they played.

They conceded loss in two outings and one match they took part in was adjudged to be no result.

The results, nevertheless, did not deter them from showcasing spirited displays when they took on the third-placed Serengeti Giants in the Eliminator.

Reliance Insurance are main sponsors for the tournament, which is organized by the national cricket governing body in a bid to boost cricket promotion at the domestic level.

The showdown's co-sponsors are Sayona Drinks Ltd, Unity Computers, Sterling, Pepsi, Harab Motors and G1 Security.

Namungo FC to jet off to Morocco tomorrow

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's representatives in CAF Confederation Cup, Namungo FC, depart for Morocco tomorrow to face giants Raja Cassablanca in Group D match, which will take place at Stade Mohammed V next week.

Information from Namungo FC stated all preparations for the trip are over and the outfit is looking forward to the game which takes place on Wednesday.

Namungo FC information officer, Kindamba Namlia, said the team's technical panel met today to discuss the way forward.

"We were busy with our game against Mwadui FC in the Premier League, we used that game to prepare for our away game against Raja Cassablanca of Morocco, the technical panel will meet on Saturday (today) to discuss it, but hopefully the team departs the country on Sunday," he said.

Namungo, who are making their first appearance in the CAF tournament, have been placed in Group D alongside Nkana of Zambia, Raja Cassablanca and Pyramid FC of Egypt.

Namlia could not issue more details on the trip, but said as usual his outfit's advance party will be the first to arrive in Morocco to prepare for the team's arrival and arrange other essential needs.

Namungo FC outclassed Angolan side Primeiro de Agosto 7-5 in the play offs to make it to the group stage.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

